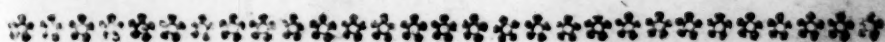


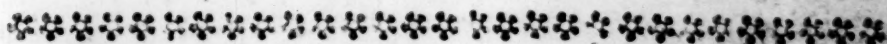
THE
FARMER'S SON
OF
KENT.

VOLUME THE SECOND.



“ How difficult’s the path to Happiness!
“ Whilst up the precipice we climb with Pain
“ One little slip throws us quite down again.”

OTWAY.



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MDCCLXIX.





THE
FARMER'S SON
OF
KENT.

 I MADE haste to meet Mr. Wilford, according to his appointment, and found him waiting for me at his lodgings.

As soon as I entered the apartment where he was, he arose to receive me with great cheerfulness, saying, "O! Mr. Clerimont, I am glad you are come! Sit down, and I will com-

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B

"municate

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“ municate a scheme to you, which per-
“ haps may be worth your attending
“ to. — I have perceived you to droop
“ very much of late, and I assure you
“ it has given me some concern. My
“ sentiments I generally deliver very
“ plainly, yet with no intent to offend
“ any one. I must own, I never enter-
“ tained any great opinion of your be-
“ coming a placeman : give me leave
“ to tell you that you are too open and
“ ingenuous for a courtier. But if you
“ will condescend to become the de-
“ pendant of a worthy nobleman in
“ another manner (I mean to execute
“ the office of his land steward) I be-
“ lieve I can procure you the place ;
“ if you chuse not to accept it, excuse
“ my friendly officiousness which is meant
“ only to serve you, and pass the affair
“ by,

“ by, as if you had never heard it mentioned.”

I WAS not inclined to reject this proposal, as knowing that many gentlemen of small fortune have thought it no disgrace to execute such an office.—I therefore thanked my friend for his care, and told him I should esteem myself happy in obtaining the place which he made mention of.

WILFORD seemed highly pleased that he should have it in his power to oblige me; and we agreed that I should go with him the ensuing day to the earl of P——’s, whose steward I was to be. The next morning I communicated this affair to Humphreys, who was now my inseparable companion at home, (though abroad he appeared my humble dependant,

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dant) for we ate and drank together, and slept under one roof, though in different rooms. He seemed greatly delighted with the scheme, and said it was the only method by which I could throw myself in the way of court preferment again: "For" said he "a steward is next to a nobleman's own family, and his family is next to himself, and an earl is next to a duke, and a duke"— But now a loud rap at the door broke his climax. "God forgive me! cried he (starting) I believe his lordship's coach is come to fetch you."

A MOMENTARY pause ensued; when my bell rang (the signal that I was wanted) "Go down, Mr. Humphreys," said I, "and see what company is below, whilst I adjust myself for their reception." He did so, and presently returned

turned with a wan, meagre figure, dressed in a shabby blue coat, and scarlet laced waistcoat, much tarnished, having a huge pair of spectacles on his nose, and his hands full of papers. After much ceremonious formality, he desired my servant to withdraw (for such he deemed poor Nathan) who vanished accordingly, but, casting back his eyes, shrugged up his shoulders, and muttered something very like the *monstrum horrendum* of Virgil as he withdrew. The coast being clear, "Sir," said he, "if your name be Clerimont, I have a little business with you," and so saying, he drew near me, holding in his hand a slip of parchment and leaning over my shoulder whispered: "Be pleased to look at that," I was much alarmed at his discourse, really apprehending nothing less than an arrest from this his strange man-

ner of addressing me; but I was soon undeceived, by seeing that it was only a note, requiring me to put off my attendance at the earl of P——'s till four in the afternoon. However I thought this a very singular manner of address. "What," said I to myself, "is this the way his lordship writes his cards and messages, and does he generally send lawyers, or sheriff's officers with them?" Yet I composed, as well as I could, the distorted muscles of my face, and told the old gentleman, that I should be punctual to the time mentioned in the billet. He then desired me to return the parchment; "For," said he, "I think in the present state of affairs, a Dutch war is inevitable." This speech so effectually destroyed all my affected gravity, that it was not without the utmost difficulty

difficulty I stifled a laugh, and metamorphosed it into a fit of coughing; on which he very gravely observed, that, I had caught cold, and was about to prescribe a remedy, when, unfortunately for me, the servant of the house bringing in the daily paper, he eagerly snatched it out of her hand, and began asking my excuse for reading aloud such articles as best pleased his humour. At last, chancing to light on a paragraph, mentioning two memorials, the one to be presented to the King of Prussia, and the other to the States General, he assured me he had the originals of those pieces about him, which however, he was not so happy as to find; yet he emptied his pockets of an enormous parcel of papers, the contents of which I found he was determined I should hear. After he had read three or

four of them (with which I was obliged to seem highly entertained) I rang for Humphreys, and thought, by talking a little with him, to get rid of this insipid companion: but these my expectations proved vain; he patiently waited till I had finished what I had to say to my supposed domestic, and then resumed his task, in as eager a manner as if he had been contesting for a prize.

WHILE his eyes were fixed on his writings, I gave the wink to Nathan to remove the news-paper, which, as it lay by him, he occasionally referred to, and which generally afforded him fresh matter to torment me with. My friend made an attempt, but it proved unsuccessful; for, alarmed at the rustling of the paper, he stretched out his hand, and
looking

looking very angrily, drew it towards him with all the eagerness of a bear that is going to be robbed of its prey. My disappointed 'squire drew back like one of Homer's baffled heroes, and durst not again advance to the attack, though I encouraged him to it by dumb signs, as often as I saw an opportunity.

THE unconscionable, merciless tormentor proceeded: I grew uneasy; I recollected two or three engagements; but all signified nothing, for he was determined to proceed, and as often as I arose to be gone, stopped me to hear *one* remarkable piece more. And thus must I, in all probability, have been plagued till it was time to wait on his lordship, had not my friend Wilford sent up his name, which as soon as this extraordinary gentleman heard mentioned, he gathered up his papers,

B 5

pers, and prepared to be gone. We then very formally wished each other a good morning, and I parted from him, fully convinced of the expediency of a Dutch war.

My friend entered laughing. “ So
 “ Clerimont,” cried he “ I see you have
 “ had my lord’s old rent-gatherer with
 “ you; and it were impossible to wish
 “ you a greater plague. — I guessed, if
 “ he were here, I should put him to
 “ flight; for he hates me, because I am
 “ always raillying him upon his foible.”
 — “ I am much obliged to you” returned I “ for this seasonable relief; but
 “ pray is his lord such a tedious person
 “ as himself?” — “ Quite the contrary, I
 “ assure you,” answered Wilford; “ but if
 “ you will dine with me, I will tell you
 “ something of this extraordinary per-
 “ son’s history.” To

To this I agreed; and we went together to a tavern, where, after our repast was over, I reminded the officer of his promise, with which he complied in the following terms.

“ THIS Halsey,” said he, “ was one
 “ of the sons of a tradesman who had
 “ acquired some wealth, and was ori-
 “ ginally bred to the law. But not
 “ entirely liking that business, he pro-
 “ cured himself, (as lately you did) a
 “ little place under the Government,
 “ where he was perpetually intermed-
 “ dling in party affairs, and attended
 “ more to the political state of Europe
 “ than to that of his own business.
 “ As he was not acquainted with the
 “ secrets of the Ministry, he affected
 “ to rail at them, though no one would
 “ have been a more obsequious slave to
 B 6 power,

“ power, had his vanity and curiosity
 “ been gratified, than himself. His im-
 “ prudent conduct at length cost him
 “ his place, and he found himself re-
 “ duced to the disagreeable necessity of
 “ returning to his law occupation, or
 “ depending on his trifling political
 “ pamphlets and essays in news-papers,
 “ ill planned, and worse put together, for
 “ his bread. Thus circumstanced, he
 “ pursued a middle course; still writ-
 “ ing occasionally, for he could not cure
 “ his cacoëthes for politics, and practis-
 “ ing sometimes in the law, in the same
 “ manner as prentenders to astrology,
 “ and quacks in physic do, solving *strange*
 “ *questions*, and undertaking *desperate*
 “ *cases*. From this time, he became an
 “ impertinent, and the humour, of which
 “ he has given you so large a specimen,
 “ has continued to increase upon him ever
 “ since.

“ since. But at this juncture his elder
 “ brother died, and his father who had
 “ not seen him for a long time, sent for
 “ him, being then very infirm : he pro-
 “ mised to leave him his shop and the
 “ stock in trade, which he had intend-
 “ ed for his deceased son, if he would
 “ stay at home, instruct himself in the
 “ business, and take upon him the
 “ charge. These proposals he seemed
 “ willing to agree to ; but, upon trial,
 “ proved so negligent, that his father was
 “ obliged to take in a first cousin of his
 “ for a partner, to whom, at his death,
 “ he left the business and all his stock,
 “ furniture, &c. Yet, as he was ex-
 “ tremely rich, he bequeathed to this
 “ his careless son upwards of six thou-
 “ sand pounds, which once more set him
 “ upon a genteel footing in life ; it were
 “ well if he had known how to main-
 “ tain

"tain it. But now he seemed inclined
 "more than ever to gratify his dar-
 "ling passion, and the insatiable desire
 "he had of meddling with matters that
 "did not concern him. He took a
 "house which was as much a mart for
 "intelligence as a barber's shop. His
 "visitors were all news-mongers, his
 "rooms were filled with pamphlets and
 "his floors strewn with daily papers.
 "All Grubstreet seemed to centre in his
 "habitation, and (like the upholsterer in
 "the farce) his care of himself was utterly
 "lost in that which he professed for the
 "nation. A very poor knight who
 "had formerly been in favour with the
 "Ministry, but was now discarded,
 "whose good principles were as much
 "exhausted as his purse, persuaded
 "him that he was secretly em-
 "ployed in negotiating a certain loan
 "to

“ to his Danish majesty, that intended
“ for the King of Prussia, being then
“ much talked of; and for this purpose,
“ advised Halsey to employ some of his
“ money in this laudable scheme, from
“ which he encouraged him to ex-
“ pect great advantage. Proud to have
“ his name set down amongst the sub-
“ scribers, the deluded politician drew
“ his money out of the stocks, and ab-
“ solutely paid five thousand pounds
“ into the hands of the knight's steward
“ for this purpose. Certain papers were
“ then delivered formally into his hands,
“ in the presence of an attorney and his
“ clerk, entitling him to an equivalent
“ in the Danish funds, bearing a very
“ high interest and transferable like other
“ stocks. With this he was fully satisfied;
“ but sometime after when he would have
“ passed

“ passed these papers, as current cash, he
 “ found them refused. Enraged, he went to
 “ seek for the knight ; but was informed
 “ he had some time since embarked at
 “ Harwich for Holland, and taken his
 “ steward with him. As for the attor-
 “ ney and his clerk, they proved to be
 “ notorious cheats, and were some time
 “ after tried and convicted of other
 “ offences. This, together with some
 “ of his own extravagant schemes, again
 “ reduced him to distress, and he was
 “ obliged to sell off his goods to pay
 “ his creditors. Yet, instead of turning
 “ aside from the folly which had twice
 “ cost him so dear, he gave himself
 “ as much up to it as ever, and still
 “ keeps his Danish papers by him, assert-
 “ ing that the time may come when he
 “ may get cash for them : nay, he has
 “ even been so mad as to join with two
 “ others

“ others who were tricked in the same
 “ manner, by depending on his judge-
 “ ment in a memorial, desiring leave to
 “ make reprisals on the Danes, by seiz-
 “ ing their property either at sea or land
 “ for their money. This a gentleman
 “ pretended to get presented for him,
 “ and told him, in answer, that the Go-
 “ vernment could do nothing in the af-
 “ fair till there should be a Dutch war;
 “ a circumstance which he has very
 “ carefully preserved in his memory ever
 “ since, and has actually been employed
 “ (by some who, it is likely, had their
 “ private ends to answer) in getting some
 “ papers against the States committed
 “ to the press, which, however, contain
 “ some true and spirited charges against
 “ their High-Mightinesses. The earl
 “ of P——, some time since, travelling
 “ unattended within a few miles of Lon-
 “ don.

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“ don, in the dusk of the evening, was at-
“ tacked by a single highwayman, who,
“ as his lordship had no arms, must cer-
“ tainly have robbed him, had not this
“ Halsey, who was riding express upon
“ some of his schemes, come up, and,
“ presenting a rusty pistol, frightened
“ the thief from his booty, who was
“ just then vowing to murder the earl
“ for having attempted to resist him
“ with his horse-whip. The nobleman
“ thus falling into company with him,
“ hearing his story, and being pleased
“ with his whimsical manners (for his
“ lordship is a humourist) resolved to
“ give him some support and assistance :
“ he accordingly made him his under
“ steward, or rather rent-gatherer, an
“ office which suits him well enough,
“ and he sometimes introduces him to
“ some great men of his acquaintance,
“ who

“ who divert themselves with his odd
 “ humours, and occasionally employ
 “ him in trifling matters which they do
 “ not care directly to intermeddle in.
 “ Of these favours he is very proud,
 “ and talks of them in as mysteri-
 “ ous a manner, as if he really were
 “ admitted into the cabinet-council.—
 “ Such is Mr. Halfey, a character, in
 “ my opinion, as extraordinary as ever
 “ appeared on any stage in Europe.”

I was much entertained with this story
 of the man who had frightened me so
 much, and could not help asking for
 what reason I was presented with a
 parchment summons to attend his lord-
 ship? “ Oh,” returned the officer, “ that
 “ is another of Mr. Halfey’s whims:
 “ He always copies the cards, messages,
 “ &c. which he is proud of delivering
 “ for

“ for the earl, on slips of parchment, all
 “ which, he says, he is to keep by him
 “ till there shall be a Dutch war, and
 “ then the Hollanders or Danes are to
 “ pay him a dear rate for all his lost
 “ time: now this being, I suppose, only
 “ a verbal message, he drew it out in
 “ this manner from mere whim; and
 “ his lord suffers him to gratify these
 “ tempers, partly from good-nature to-
 “ wards the old gentleman, and partly
 “ from a caprice of his own; for he
 “ often says, that Halsey's humour is
 “ the best entertainment he has.”

BUT, now I took leave of my friend
 for the present, to dress for waiting on
 my noble employer, which being done,
 we met again, and I was formally intro-
 duced to his lordship; who was a tall,
 genteel, well-made man, of a middling
 age

age and stature, and had the appearance of great good-nature. After a few questions being asked and resolved, with regard to my capacity, for discharging the office which I solicited, I was accepted, and such terms agreed upon as I thought were advantageous enough on my part. Within a month I was to come and receive my final instructions.

I DEPARTED, well satisfied with this answer, and went with my friend to the coffee-house, which had been the old place of rendezvous, where we found the gentlemen entertaining themselves with the extravagances of Mr. Marsden, who had just published his poetical piece, which met with a very favourable reception, and indeed deserved it. He had now made an entertainment, to which, contrary to common custom, the bidden guests

guests were almost all of them entire strangers to him and to each other, who, being so extraordinarily met together, were employed chiefly in gazing one upon the other; but as each thought his neighbour a friend to the master of the feast, in consequence, they behaved as agreeably as possible; yet the aukward manner in which they forced a conversation, that one moment was at a stand, and the next mingled a number of tongues, like the confusion of Babel, served greatly to delight this extraordinary author.

AFTER supper was over, he entertained the company with a Greek ode of Anacreon, set to music, a copy of which he presented to each of his guests. This uncommon assembly being broken up, about eleven o'clock he returned to his old friends

friends (not one of whom he had invited to his entertainment) and resumed his usual place at the board, which he quitted not till he had partaken so freely of the gifts of Bacchus, that he was conveyed home in a chair, in a state of insensibility.

WHEN this gentleman was gone, Mr. Wilford's friend informed the company that he had expressed his intention of taking holy-orders. "I fancy" said I, "he will make a strange sort of a parson."—"Granted," returned he, "but you are sensible, Sir, that he will not be the only strange one this century has produced."—While he spoke these words, he drew from his pocket a volume of Churchill's works, which he surveyed with great attention.

"THAT

" THAT I allow," said I (by a sort of
 mechanical impulse, casting my eyes to-
 wards a set of Tristram Shandy, which
 Mr. Marsden had left lying on the table)
 " Alas ! poor Yorick ! witty declaimer,
 " agreeable trifler, pathetic in thy satire,
 " seriously and sentimentally ludicrous !
 " Hadst thou but more constantly attend-
 " ed to that wondrous talent given thee,
 " of awakening the human heart to piety
 " and to the social virtues ;---hadst thou
 " been more zealous in support of the
 " dignity of Human Nature, how ex-
 " tensive had been thy honest fame, how
 " deservedly great thy eulogium ! But
 " it is not in mortals to be perfect : such
 " as thou art, thou shalt live admired
 " and beloved ; and when thou diest, thy
 " lively genius and well-designing heart
 " shall be remembered in thy epitaph !"

WHY

WHY was the bursting tear ready to start from my eyes, whilst I spoke thus?—Was it for myself, or for poor Yorick, that my heart was so full?—It was for him, for myself, and for all mankind that I would have wept;—I considered the lot of frail humanity, I remembered the sentence pronounced upon all the sons of Adam, and mourned the living mortal as the dead*.

“Now I cannot conceive,” exclaimed the poet, (jogging my elbow) “what possesses such mad-caps to take up the gown, when, doubtless, the sword would much better become them:”—“Pray, Sir,” said Wilford, “were you

* Before this sheet could be committed to the press, the lively, the sentimental Yorick was no more. Fate deprived the world of this extraordinary genius, on the 25th of March, 1768.

“ ever present at a general engagement ? ”

“ No Sir, answered the other ; but I

“ have read the accounts of many. ” —

“ And yet,” said the officer, “ you make

“ no difficulty of describing them. ” —

“ None in the least. ” — From whence I

“ conclude,” replied Wilford, “ that

“ mere words, written or spoken, are

“ widely different from actions, and nei-

“ ther of the gentlemen hinted at might

“ be any more fit for the military, than

“ for the ecclesiastical employment. ” —

“ It is very true,” said the old gentleman, fixing his eyes upon the poet,

“ Nothing is more different than those

“ mens writings and their actions ; else

“ would not virtue be praised by the

“ profligate, nor courage celebrated by

“ the coward. ”

THESE last observations were rather severe on Mr. Stanza who was known to
be

be what is generally termed a man of free principles : he had written a very pretty ode to virtue, and was constantly employed in attempts at heroic poetry, though none was ever under greater subjection to his fears. The general terms of the speech, however, gave him but little room to reply to it with any propriety, and some new subjects being started, the conversation became general for the remainder of the evening.

WHEN I returned home, I found Humphreys in one of his whimsical humours, standing still in the middle of his room, and talking to himself. I opened the door, without being perceived by him, and coming up close behind him could plainly distinguish these words, which he was muttering to himself.

“ Well ! God forgive me ! some folks

“ will never be wife. Some cast-off mis-
 “ tress, I warrant, by her enquiries.—
 “ *There is a time for all things.* I am sure
 “ this is no proper season for renewing
 “ old contracts. But I will be hanged
 “ if he hears a word of the matter from
 “ me.”

HAVING finished his soliloquy, he
 was surprized, on turning round, to see
 me standing at his elbow. “ Why, how
 “ now, Humphreys?” said I, “ what
 “ has vexed you thus, and whose con-
 “ tracts are you so much offended at?”—
 “ Why indeed,” replied Nathan, “ I
 “ thought not to have told you; but
 “ since you have over-heard it, I must
 “ inform you, that a young woman has
 “ been here to enquire after you, and as
 “ she seemed big with child, I did not
 “ care to give her any intelligence con-
 “ cerning

“ cerning you. She said, indeed, that she
 “ came from another person in Somers-
 “ setshire, and talked something of con-
 “ tracts. But I gave her to understand,
 “ that if it was any thing in the matri-
 “ monial way, she came too late, for you
 “ were already engaged, (as it is likely
 “ you soon may be to Lord what-do-you
 “ call-him’s daughter) however my an-
 “ swer did not so far satisfy her, but that
 “ she called again and left this letter
 “ for you.”—“ And what did you in-
 “ tend to do with that letter ?” cried I
 hastily.—“ Even as Augustus did with
 “ the list of conspirators presented him ;
 “ burn it, to prevent farther mischief.
 “ I beg,” said I, “ you will be less offi-
 “ cious, and mind your own affairs
 “ more, and mine less.” Saying this,
 I took the letter from him, and was

“astonished to find it come from
 “my dear Miss Harwood, but was
 “written in a style which gave me
 “much uneasiness. She therein said,
 “that notwithstanding many stories she
 “had heard to my disadvantage, she
 “had taken the pains to search me out
 “in London, where her eyes and ears
 “had been convinced of my falsehood
 “to those vows which once I made to
 “her, and which she now said, she freely
 “absolved me from, wishing me happy
 “in my choice of a wife wherever I
 “should fix it.”

I COULD no longer contain my anger,
 on reading this letter, but began to vent
 it on poor Nathan, who chose not to abide
 the storm, but retired, turning up his
 eyes to the cieling, and exclaiming, “that
 “there

there never was any mischief, without a woman being at the bottom of it."

I PASSED a sleepless night, on account of what I had heard and read, and began to torture my brains for an invention to find out where about my fair-one resided in London ; but in vain : I could lay no scheme for this, that bore any probability of success. At last, I resolved to put an advertisement into the paper, importing, " That the person in —— street who received a billet from a lady, signed L. H. on such a day, would be glad of an interview, in which he doubted not to clear up every thing to her satisfaction." This expedient served no other end than that of occasioning a card from Miss Harwood, two days after in the same paper, to this effect.

["Miss L. H's compliments wait on the gentleman who advertised in Tuesday's paper. He has no occasion to give himself any farther trouble concerning her, as she is about to retire into the country, where she will dispose herself entirely to obey the commands of her relations for the future."]

THE perusal of this was like a dagger struck into my breast. I raved, I swore, and behaved like a very madman, to the great vexation of Mr. Humphreys, who was, by this time, heartily sorry for the part which he bore in my afflictions; and I could not but pity the woeful countenance with which he always appeared before me. At last, when my anger had a little subsided, "Humphreys," said I, "nothing has ever given me more uneasiness than this unhappy misunderstanding

"standing

“ standing of my Leonora ; and, you
 “ must confess, a great part of it has
 “ been owing to your strange miscon-
 “ ception.” — “ That I do,” returned
 he “ and am heartily sorry for it ; but
 “ God forgive me ! I did it for the best
 “ *Humanum est . . .* ” — “ It is enough,”
 cried I stopping him short (for which
 by the bye, he was not a little obliged to
 me, having forgotten the conclusion of
 his scrap of Latin, a thing not uncommon
 with him, as he knew no more of that
 language than a few musty proverbs,
 which he had picked up, and retailed
 to all who kept him company.) “ It
 “ is very well” said I ; “ we can but
 “ acknowledge our errors. I am doomed
 “ to be unhappy ; but let me not make
 “ you so likewise. If you have done
 “ amiss it is past, and I will endeavour
 “ to forget it ; but take more care in
 C 5 future

“future how you act for your friend”.

“—I always thought this,” cried Humphreys: “Noble minds seldom bear
“a long resentment. Brutus and Cas-
“sius were thus reconciled, as the story
“says, and many more.”

HERE I begged him not to enumerate any of them, as I was in a hurry to wait upon my friend Wilford, whom, during this interim, I had almost forgotten. As I was walking towards his lodgings I met him, coming to seek for me. The earl of P——, it seemed, had found it necessary to part with his old steward sooner than at first he intended, and now wanted me to supply his place, with which intelligence my friend was charged; and the next day was fixed on for me to enter upon the duties of my office.

THE

THE person who had occupied the place before me, stayed to put me in the way of conducting matters; and I took all imaginable pains to qualify myself for my business. I soon found that it was a weighty charge that was committed to me, and one that it required no small address to execute. I had however, for some time, the good fortune to please the earl, and was remarked by him for my fidelity and circumspection. But fortune had not decreed me to remain long in this employment.

HIS lordship, who was a widower, had a daughter, about the age of seventeen, whose soft, yielding disposition, and carelessness in her conduct, were such as occasioned many people to say she was but a degree above a natural fool, though

nothing is more certain, than that many rich people, of both sexes, have glided smoothly along the stream of life with talents not a whit superior to those of lady Mary, as she was named. A captain of foot, who frequented his lordship's house, and was generally well esteemed by him, took it into his head to make love to this his daughter; and carried on the intrigue with so much art and secrecy, that not a word of it was known in the family, till the young lady was actually preparing to go off with him; and then the affair was discovered only by a letter of his, which she had been so careless as to drop.

MEANWHILE, Mr. Halsey was always intruding his company upon me, always finding some excuse or other for tormenting me with his political reflexions;

ions; and often took an opportunity of leaving his papers in my office, which curiosity never prompted me to look into. But just before the event above-mentioned, he desired I would lock up a small box for him, in one of my desks, which I did readily enough, little suspecting what it contained.

BUT when the intended elopement of the lady Mary was known, and all the family in confusion, I was surprized to see his lordship come in person to my office to demand my keys, and asked him, not without some confusion, whether I had done any thing which made it improper to trust me with them any longer. "We shall see," said he sternly, and opening all my desks took out, at length, the little box which Halfey had committed to my care. "This it is," said he,

he, " to have a faithful steward ! Pray,
" Mr. Clerimont, how much was captain
" M—— to give you for this signal
" piece of service ? ”

As I understood not what his lordship meant by these expressions, I remained silent till he had finished his speech, and opened the coffer, which was found to contain his daughter's jewels and some valuable writings ; which, as it seemed, Mr. Halsey, who proved to be the captain's confident, had disposed in my custody, though I was not to be let into the secret, in order that it might remain safe and unsuspected till the young couple should take their flight. The officer, as it appeared, had offered him large rewards for this piece of service, and, above all, had promised to get a petition presented

sented to the king and council, for a *Dutch war*.

I WAS amazed and confounded at being accused as a party; and my surprise, in all probability, wrought nearly the same effect as a consciousness of the truth of the charge might have done. Certain it is, that the frequent visits of Mr. Halsey to my office, his concern in the affair, the regard I had often been heard to express for captain M——, and my present confusion, all witnessed so strongly, that not only the earl, but every one about him, pronounced me guilty. Being interrogated, as to the particulars of this business, and unable to tell any thing relating to an affair, the grounds of which I was totally ignorant of, his lordship immediately discharged me.

As

As for Mr. Halfey, he very prudently withdrew, to concert new measures for a *Dutch war*, fully convinced that Fate had not marked this for the time in which he was to recover his Danish loan.

FULL of vexation, I went directly in search of my friend and recommender, but sought him in vain, being informed at his apartments, that he had been abroad all day. Disappointed, I returned to my own lodgings, where I found Mr. Humphreys, busy in transcribing some pieces for the press, which were written by a celebrated author.

WHEN I told him the story I have recited above, he started up (at the same time letting a deluge of ink fall from his pen upon the fairly-written pages of his work.)

work.) “ The plague of Greece and
 “ Helen’s p—x light on Lord what-do-
 “ you-call him’s idiot,” said he, “ and
 “ a murrain overtake that fellow with
 “ the monstrous spectacles. God for-
 “ give me ! Who would have thought
 “ that you must lose your place to promote
 “ a *Dutch war* ? I believe,” (pausing a
 little) “ such a thing is not to be matched
 “ in the remembrance of the nine wor-
 “ thies. Yes, Hector lost his life for
 “ Paris indeed; but then he was his bro-
 “ ther, and the general, no doubt, went
 “ snacks with him in the treasures he
 “ brought from Greece. But this ! . . . I
 “ could bite my finger-nails to think
 “ of it.”—“ Confound your similes
 “ and parallels,” cried I, “ what remains
 “ to be done ? I was on the point of
 “ rising in the world; but now all is
 “ ruined

“ruined again.”—“Really,” returned my squire, (scratching his head) “I can see no remedy, but that of returning to your old law scribbling again.” And this was all the advice or comfort I could get from him.

ALL that day I shut myself up in my chamber, and passed a sleepless night after it. The next morning Mr. Wilford entered my room, but with altered looks, and a severity in his countenance, which he was not accustomed to put on to me. Before I could speak, “So Mr. Clerimont” said he, “you have done a fine business for yourself at the earl of P——’s, and sacrificed at once my honour and your own. I fancy it will not be easy for you to procure an employment of that kind again. For heaven’s sake what have you to say
“in

“ in your behalf ? ” — “ If what I say can
“ have any weight,” replied I, “ I am
“ ready enough to attest my innocence.
“ I have been somewhat imprudent,
“ indeed, but by no means unfaithful.”

A long investigation of the affair ensued, but my arguments, however just, had no force upon Mr. Wilford, who was prepossessed against me, and in the end of this conversation, I plainly perceived, that I had lost not only my place, but also my friend. He departed in a very cold manner, saying, he wished he could believe me innocent, and left me heartily chagrined with this misadventure.

FROM this time my fortunes began again to decline; and, as I found it a difficult matter to get any employment suitable to my character, in the manner I had kept it up ever since our lottery affair,

affair, notwithstanding my utmost frugality, I soon found myself reduced to distress; and my creditors, whose mouths had been stopped for a while, began again to grow clamorous: whilst all that my boast of the legacy, which I feigned to have been left me served for, was only to make my extravagance the more remarkable; so that I now found myself charged with crimes I knew nothing of, and excesses which I had never given into.

It also became useless, even to seek for a place of employment, since my best refuge was to keep within my own lodgings, which were in the verge of the court, where I could not find any business.

My affairs grew every day worse and worse: Wilford and his friend shunned me,

me, and all my old companions seemed to treat me coldly. Poor Humphreys alone remained, and supported me, without complaining, out of his scanty pittance ; he having obtained a clerkship worth about forty-five pounds *per annum*. This was but a slender provision for two people, and it grieved my heart again to become a burden to this honest man. However, I flattered myself with the hopes that I should still have it in my power, one day, to recompense him.

At this time, looking by chance over a news-paper, I saw a paragraph, dated from B——], which I understood to relate to Leonora's marriage.

“ SHE is lost,” said I (in an agony of passion) “ she is irrecoverably lost to me forever ! Never more shall I embrace
“ brace

“brace that dear, that lovely one! Never
 “must I call her mine.” My ’squire
 was quite frightened at my exclamations;
 yet, he endeavoured to sooth my sorrow,
 as soon as he knew the cause of it, by
 producing many examples of illustrious
 persons, who had lost their loves, and
 even their brides upon the wedding-day.
 But his discourse, though dictated by
 an honest heart which felt for my mis-
 fortune, was yet far from answering the
 desired end; instead of which, I became
 rather the more uneasy, the more he en-
 deavoured to console me.

[THERE IS not, perhaps, a more *difficult*
 or a more *delicate* task in the world, than
 that of comforting the afflicted. It is not
 enough, that the person who attempts
 it should pity his friend;—he must also
 enter into his sentiments, and have, in a
 great

great measure, the same feelings as he has. Nothing, in general, is so great an alleviation of our sorrows, as to see our friends *share* them with us, in the true sense of the word, and really and unaffectedly grieve when we grieve. This surpasses all the comforts that can be drawn from reason or philosophy; and if there be any method whereby to sooth a troubled breast, surely it is this. Yet, after all, it must be owned that in many violent transports of the mind, whether of grief or of anger, there are certain times in which it were better our friends should keep silence, and give the torrent way.]

BUT to return: — after my first transport of grief was over, I began, on cool reflexion, to look upon myself as a being that stood entirely alone amidst the numbers

bers and crowds who bustled round me. I appeared now to have no longer any connexions or ties, of blood, of friendship, or of love; and I found that I must dispose myself to act accordingly.

WHILST I was thus buried in the depth of disagreeable reflexions, my bell rang, and I was informed that a gentleman desired to see me at a neighbouring tavern upon particular business. Accordingly I went to the place from whence the message was sent, when, enquiring who wanted me, I was shewn into a room, where sat an elderly man with a bottle of wine before him. When I came in, he arose to receive me, and clapping his hand on my shoulder, "Sir," said he, "if your name be Clerimont, I must intreat you will accompany me to my house." — "I have
not

“ not the pleasure of knowing you,” answered I, with great absence of mind.
 “ It may be so, returned the stranger,
 “ but perhaps we shall be better acquainted presently. Pray sit, Sir : my service to you. Pray Sir do you know one
 “ Mr. Yardley, a woollen-draper ? he
 “ desired me to present you with this
 “ little billet. Do not be discomposed
 “ Sir ; I dare say the affair will soon be
 “ made up : only twenty five pounds
 “ Sir . . . Meanwhile, I can accommodate
 “ you with a room fit for a nobleman.”

So I found myself arrested ; for this tavern was out of the verge of the court. I remained silent ; so many misfortunes coming thus, one upon the back of the other had quite stupefied me ; the officer, however, continued to run on in the same strain, in which he had begun, till the bottle

was emptied; when, perceiving that I was not disposed to call for any more liquor, he prepared to conduct me to his house, where he had promised so well to accommodate me.

WE were just going out at the door of the tavern, when a gentleman, whose voice I thought I remembered somewhere to have heard, called me by name. What was my surprize, when, turning round, I recognized in him the person of Mr. Ancram! “Whither are you going” “Mr. Clerimont?” said he, “Will you not vouchsafe me a word?” — “The gentleman is going with me, returned the officer.” — With you! exclaimed Mr. Ancram, looking stedfastly on him, and coming up close, “Are not you a sheriff’s officer,” continued he, “and have you any thing against him?” — “Only an affair of twenty-five pounds,” replied

replied my conductor. "I would bail him
 " then," said Mr. Ancram, " if it were
 " for so many hundreds; but I believe
 " that will be needless."—" Here take
 " this," (pulling a fifty pound note
 from his pocket-book), " get it changed,
 " for me, and let the debt and costs be
 " paid out of it." This was accord-
 ingly done, though, I must own, much
 against my will; for I would, at that
 time, almost as willingly have been
 exposed to the horrors of a prison, and
 have run the risque of perishing there,
 as have been thus obliged to such a man
 as I deemed Mr. Ancram, for my liber-
 ty. But he over-ruled me, and the offi-
 cer was well pleased to get the business
 done so easily, a circumstance which he
 took care to make his advantage of.

WHEN this affair was settled, and we
 were alone, my *quondam* acquaintance

expressed his desire of clearing up, as he said, the strange affair that had happened between us. "I doubt not," said he, "Mr. Clerimont, but you reckoned me
 " your worst enemy, and thought me
 " a most accomplished hypocrite in the
 " affair of Miss Leonora Harwood; yet
 " I solemnly protest before Heaven and
 " man, that you wronged me in these
 " suspicions; though, at the same time,
 " I must frankly own there was but too
 " much seeming occasion for them; yet
 " I never was your rival, and was far
 " from having the least suspicion of
 " your being the person with whom
 " I engaged. But your mistress's false
 " waiting-woman betrayed and deluded
 " us both. She brought me word that
 " you desired I would attend at Mr.
 " Harwood's garden, and convey the
 " lady

“ lady to you at a place which she
“ named; I came accordingly, but near
“ an hour before the time, which pre-
“ vented a plot they had laid against us
“ both from taking effect: they mistook
“ me for you, and we mistook each
“ other; which occasioned all the mis-
“ chief that followed. I found myself
“ furrounded and fired at, and made
“ good, with some difficulty, my retreat
“ through the garden-gate, at which in-
“ stant, perceiving a man to come over
“ the wall, muffled up, and with arms
“ in his hand, as I thought, in pursuit
“ of me, I turned to defend myself, and
“ happily missing the fatal aim of my
“ pistol, as well you know, fell wounded
“ at your feet. Some of Harwood’s
“ servants took me up and conveyed
“ me into the house, where they sent for
D 3 “ a surgeon;

“ a surgeon ; and as soon as I recovered
“ the use of my speech and senses, being
“ interrogated concerning the matter, I
“ declared the manner in which I was
“ hurt. The false confidante of Leo-
“ nora immediately avowed she was
“ ready to prove you the assassin ; and
“ Harwood himself took care to ad-
“ vertise, and have you pursued. His
“ cousin, in the mean time, was but
“ little pleased that his intended wife
“ was thus made the town talk of,
“ in regard of a love-affair, while the
“ fair Leonora was almost distracted
“ with grief for what had happened.
“ For a long time she appeared much
“ indisposed, and at last was suddenly
“ missing, no one knowing whither she
“ betook herself. I have since heard,
“ however, that she was seen some time
“ ago,

“ ago, in London, and lived here with
 “ a relation ; but lately she has again
 “ disappeared, and from a paragraph
 “ I saw in the news the other day, I
 “ should be tempted to think she has at
 “ last given her hand to her cousin;
 “ though what should be the reason of
 “ such a change in her sentiments, I can-
 “ not possibly guess.”

“ BUT I fear I can guess it too tru-
 “ ly,” said I, sighing, and related the
 circumstance of her mistake, and Hum-
 phreys's ill timed officiousness. Then,
 I begged pardon of my friend for the
 unworthy suspicions which I had enter-
 tained of him ; and he reassumed his
 story in the following manner :

“ Soon after you were gone away,
 “ my father proposed matching my sis-
 “ ter with a gentleman of fortune and
 D 4 “ fashion ;

“ fashion ; but all his persuasions could
 “ not prevail on her to give him her
 “ hand ; though we were at that time
 “ unacquainted with the cause of her so
 “ obstinate refusal : but it has since ap-
 “ peared that she entertained a passion
 “ for you, to which it is likely you are
 “ a stranger.

“ HEAVENS ! cried I,” interrupting
 him, “ is it possible ? and could I be so
 “ blind as not to perceive it before ?
 “ What a whimsical fortune has mine
 “ ever been ! But how did you discover
 “ this surprizing circumstance ?”

“ By some papers,” said he, “ which
 “ were found after she was gone ; for the
 “ unhappy girl had withdrawn herself
 “ from my father’s house, soon after
 “ Miss Harwood’s departure, and not-
 “ withstanding

“ withstanding all our enquiries we
 “ have not been able to hear of her;
 “ till lately we received intelligence that
 “ she had been seen some time since at
 “ a friend’s house in London, whither
 “ I am come rather in search of her
 “ than for any other cause. Happy
 “ however do I esteem myself, that I
 “ have been at hand to help you in your
 “ distress.”

HERE he left off speaking, and invited me to accompany him to his lodgings in town, which I did, and spent some hours very agreeably in his company. This worthy man then enquired into my circumstances, which he appeared greatly concerned to hear were so much embarrassed; and having presented me with a few guineas in a purse, bade me

be of good courage, promising to send me farther assistance when he should return into the country, and we parted both highly satisfied with the chance which had thus unexpectedly brought us together.

WHEN I came home, I informed my friend Humphreys of all that had happened and he was greatly rejoiced at my deliverance; but when I produced the gold that I had received, he was in raptures and scarcely able to contain himself. “A *lucky hit!*” cried he. “God forgive me, how strangely matters are brought about! Well! I do believe all is for the best at last, and we are both destined to be happy.”—“I believe so too,” answered I very gravely; “but it may perhaps be a long while before these things are brought
“ about,

“ about, so we may as well take advantage of the present time; for which
 “ purpose, I must endeavour to make
 “ affairs as easy as possible with the rest
 “ of my creditors, and in this matter,
 “ Mr. Humphreys, you must be my
 “ agent.”

ACCORDINGLY, I employed my trusty
 'squire, with another friend, to go round
 among such people as I owed money to,
 and to solicit their forbearance for a
 certain limited time, a matter which
 with some difficulty they accomplished.
 Being now once more at my liberty to
 seek for employment, I set myself about
 it in earnest, and at last got a recommendation to a gentleman in the literary world as his amanuensis; for he had often occasion for one for a whole year together.

Mr. Haughton, (that was his name) after making many difficulties, and taking care to enhance the favour he did me, took me into his pay, and introduced me into a room full of books which were displayed with all the ostentation of learning. Here I had a daily task set me, which I was most strictly enjoined to fulfil; and this generally consisted in copying many sheets, from the worst manuscript copy I had ever beheld in my life; yet if there appeared the least mistake in my performance, there was no end to his reproaches.

THIS Haughton had married a very agreeable young lady, whom her friends had matched with him on account of his great name and character. An habitual moroseness of temper, and impatience of
the

the least contradiction or even mistake of his commands rendered him a most disagreeable companion. His wife, cast in the softer mould of nature, vented not her sorrows when roughly chid by him, in noisy exclamations, but softly and alone complained of her hard destiny and inconsiderate friends, who had thus sacrificed her to the embraces of so ill-chosen a lord.

My temper was thoroughly proved here, and I had often occasion to exert the utmost degree of patience which I was possessed of; the behaviour of my employer being so unaccountably whimsical, that scarcely any order or method which I pursued in my business could prove satisfactory to him; and the slightest misconception of his meaning was sufficient for him to make the most tedious comments upon.

UNFOR-

UNFORTUNATELY for me poor Humphreys one day called on me, upon account of some business, at Mr. Haughton's; and while he was discoursing with me, that gentleman himself entered the room. — “Well, Clerimont,” said he, “you will be particularly careful in transcribing this remarkable . . . Ha! who have we here? Who is this fellow?” — “That young man, Sir,” said I, “is a friend of mine,” — “*Divum tu maxime rector!*” cried he, — “Is this a place, this, my *scrinium* my *claustrum*, and as it were my very *latebra* & *recessus*? Is this a place to introduce your friends to? Be gone, impertinence!” — “God forgive me,” said Nathan, “here is a coil: I suppose your *recessus* & *latebra*, as you call it, is not defiled by my entrance. But I fly, I vanish. *Ira furor . . .*”

“*furor. . .*” — “Wretch!” exclaimed my employer, “dost thou profane the learned languages? *Abi! effuge!—Odi profanum vulgus, & arceo!*” And so saying he thrust poor Nathan out, who cried loudly, “God forgive me, I remember you when you were glad to skulk, and half starved. But *honours change manners, set a beggar on horse-back* None of the twelve Cæsars or nine Worthies would have behaved so proudly *O Tempora! O Mores!*”

ALL this while I was not a little concerned for my friend, and strove as much as possible to prevent all the disturbance. As soon as he was gone, my good-natured employer began to wreak his spleen upon me: nothing that I did that day could please him; and he seemed resolved on tiring out my patience. Vexed to find that my 'squire knew him
when

when in a lower class of life, he was determined to get rid of me. In the mean time, Nathan told me all that he knew of his history.

It appeared that he was the son of a poor Scottish schoolmaster, and coming up to London, got employed as usher to a grammar-school; whence, having by some means offended his superior, he was turned about his business, and for a great while experienced the utmost distress, during which time he had not seldom been obliged to my friend for a dinner; till meeting, by chance, with one of his country-men, who took compassion on him, he was introduced to some people well-known in the literary world, and made a shift to subsist, partly on his own occasional labours, and partly on the bounty of his acquaintance,

by

by whose advice, however, having written a political pamphlet, and inscribed it to a northern earl, he was taken into his lordship's pay and protection, since which time he had greatly increased his fund of learning and money, and was become a proud and insufferable pedant.—So ended the story of Mr. Haughton.

It was not long before this man found occasion, on some trivial account, to give me notice of my intended discharge, telling me, at the same time, that he had engaged a person of far superior learning and merit to fill my place. This person, as I afterwards learned, was no other than my old acquaintance Mr. Marsden, who having dissipated the money raised by his late performance, thought fit to accept the offer of this place, merely for a temporary subsistence.

T I R E D

TIRED as I was of Mr. Haughton's humours, yet I left him with a heavy heart, having made but little advances towards the payment of my debts, and having now a new employment to seek for. In the mean time, however, I assiduously set to work at compiling some trifling things, in order to supply my present necessities.

WHEN Humphreys heard of this event, he was far from appearing so uneasy as he had generally been on account of my misfortunes, a circumstance which, indeed, I naturally imagined was in consequence of the ill opinion he entertained of Mr. Haughton. But in this I was deceived. Having heard me attentively. "Well," said he, "when things are at the worst they will certainly mend. Mr. Deval, one of your creditors, has
" been

“ been here.” — “ A great sign of
 “ amendment indeed !” cried I, some-
 what hastily. “ You were ever a great
 “ comforter.” — “ God forgive me ! and
 “ so perhaps I may be still,” replied he,
 “ for he says he has something to pro-
 “ pose, which may be greatly to your
 “ advantage, and may help you to pay
 “ every one his own ; for which pur-
 “ pose he desires to see you to-morrow
 “ morning, and, as you know you may
 “ go with safety, I would, in my poor
 “ way, advise you not to fail him.”

THOUGH I could not conceive what
 the person in question should have to
 communicate to me ; yet I resolved to call
 on him, (as I now feared no arrest) and
 went, accordingly, at the time appointed.
 Mr. Deval was a merchant of credit, in
 the city, and my obligation to him was
 chiefly

chiefly for borrowed money. He had ever behaved to me in the genteelest manner, and was the readiest amongst all my creditors to come into my proposals.

“MR. Clerimont” said he, as soon as I entered, “I am sincerely glad to see
 “you, and have something to propose,
 “which perhaps may be of service to
 “you in your present circumstances;
 “for which purpose I desired to see
 “you; and, be assured, if you think fit
 “to follow my advice, notwithstanding
 “all that has happened hitherto between
 “us, nothing shall be wanting, on my
 “part to serve you.”

He then began to unfold a scheme which he had concerted, for me to pay my addressee to a young lady of fortune, in the neighbourhood where he lived; to
 whom

whom also he promised to introduce and recommend me.

I PAUSED a while on his proposal, first, because I could scarcely persuade myself that Deval was sincere; and secondly, because the thoughts of my dear Leonora and my former successful passion returned in such a full tide upon me, as took from me the immediate power of giving a determinate answer. I therefore requested a few days to consider on this matter and to adjust things properly, in case it were to be undertaken.

“As to the adjustment of things,” resumed the merchant. “I will take
“care you shall not be in any great
“dilemma in that respect: But as to
“the consideration of the affair, that I
“leave to you, and hope before you
“determine it, you will properly weigh
“within

“ within yourself whether the chance of
“ winning a beautiful woman and ten
“ thousand pounds in cash be not worth
“ a trial to a person in your situation.
“ Do this, and as soon as you are re-
“ solved (if really you can doubt of
“ the matter) call upon me, and let me
“ know the result of your delibera-
“ tions.”

Thus circumstanced, and imagining Miss Harwood past redemption lost to me, what could I do but accept this offer? As to Humphreys, he was perpetually teizing me upon the subject; and this indeed seemed at present to be the only plausible method whereby to enable me to answer the exigencies of both.

AFTER paying a tribute of sighs and tears to the memory of my former love,
I returned

I returned within three days to Mr. Deval, and told him I was prepared to undertake the scheme he mentioned, awaiting only my instructions from him, which he readily enough gave me, and appointed the next succeeding morning for the time of my introduction to my new mistress, whose affections he said, he doubted not but I should find the means to engage.

THE Lady (whose name was Davenant) was the daughter of a wealthy gentleman lately deceased, whose fortune (being of full age) was now, together with her person, entirely at her own disposal. She had been solicited by many people of high rank and great possessions, but declared constantly, that riches should never have any power over her affections, and that she would marry that man alone whose merit she thought deserving of her,

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her, though he were not worth a shilling. She was beautiful, and sensible though not affable, nor of the most kind and agreeable deportment.

DEVAL introduced me to the lady in a proper manner, and I did not find her averse to my addresses. I had a general invitation to the house, whither I frequently went, and was ever a welcome guest. In a little time I had made a tolerable progress in her affections, and the merchant began to congratulate me on the prospect of success that opened itself before me.—But I was not destined to accomplish the end I had at this time in view: happy, thrice happy have I since deemed myself in the disappointment!

IN

IN the mean time, Mr. Ancram quitted London, promising that I should hear from him when he arrived in Somersetshire, and that he would send me an account of all that was passing there. It is easy to conceive that I desired him to be very particular in regard to what might concern Leonora, whom I now lamented as one sacrificed to the unreasonable commands of an imperious relation: neither could I help, in the midst of my apparent good fortune, making frequent comparisons between her and Miss Davenant, much to the disadvantage of the latter.

HUMPHREYS could not endure to hear these reflexions. “What” said he, “one
 “ day because one woman was hand-
 “ some and agreeable, must you never
 VOL. II. E “ marry

“ marry another ? Has not she forsaken
 “ you, and matched herself with your
 “ rival, and do not your present circum-
 “ stances and mine also call loudly up-
 “ on you to take Miss Davenant for
 “ better and for worse ? God forgive
 “ me . . . Will you always follow this
 “ moonshine in the water ? Cæsar even
 “ put away his wedded wife, and he was
 “ a greater man than you or me.” He
 had scarcely finished his speech, when a
 servant entering the room, informed me
 that a gentleman desired to speak with
 me below ; I was astonished to find it
 was Wilford. “ My friend,” said
 the officer, “ for so again I must call
 “ you, can you forgive the unworthy
 “ suspicions which I entertained of you.
 “ The earl of P—— is convinced, by
 “ this time, of your innocence ; and
 “ has

“ has declared he will endeavour to
 “ make you all the amends in his power,
 “ with the first opportunity.”

“ I am obliged to his lordship,” re-
 turned I, “ and for your coolness, I
 “ cannot lay much blame upon it; every
 “ thing being considered.” — “ Come
 “ then,” cried he, embracing me, “ let
 “ us now forget what has passed, and
 “ my injured friend Clerimont, I hope,
 “ will have no occasion to complain of
 “ me for the future. But for Heaven’s
 “ sake, what is the present state of your
 “ circumstances? or by what method
 “ do you intend to steer your course
 “ through life?”

IN answer to this abrupt, but friendly
 question, I informed him of the scheme

I had in hand, together with the lady's name and fortune, and every other particular. "What is Miss Davenant the person?" cried he. "Yes" I replied: "Then resumed my friend, I am glad you told me; but you must give me leave to forbid the banns! On what account cried I in a tone of admiration."—"Be patient, and I will tell you," said he, "nay what is more, if you please, I can bring you where you may be witness to a scene of misery which will speak my reasons more fully than words can utter them.

"THIS lady was not the only daughter of Mr. Davenant. She had a sister named Maria, as beautiful a young woman as perhaps you ever beheld. One Mr. Waters, a worthy gentleman

“ gentleman of a good family for whom
 “ her father first designed her, and who
 “ had, for some time past, frequented
 “ their house, conceived a passion for
 “ this her sister, and openly avowed it.
 “ Miss Davenant could not forgive this
 “ slight put upon her charms, and used
 “ every art to cross the lovers, but in
 “ vain ; Maria eloped some time after
 “ with the young gentleman, and they
 “ were married without consent of pa-
 “ rents on either side.

“ Though disappointed in her love,
 “ yet Eliza resolved at once to gratify
 “ her revenge, and to raise her fortune
 “ on the ruin of her sister's. She pre-
 “ vailed on her father to make a will
 “ entirely in her favour ; biaſſed by her
 “ persuasions he never would see her
 “ sister during his life-time, and, before

“ he died, struck her out of his will. The
 “ husband of her choice was disinherited
 “ likewise, and they were left to seek
 “ their bread where they could find it.
 “ Yet the loving, lovely pair seemed
 “ happy in each other, and deeming it
 “ more noble to sustain their afflictions
 “ with fortitude, than to sink beneath
 “ them, endeavoured to bear their lot
 “ with patience.

“ THEY retired into the country,
 “ where her husband, Mr. Waters, set
 “ up a grammar-school, and, being of a
 “ very affable disposition, was greatly
 “ beloved, and supported by his neigh-
 “ bours, who proposed that he should
 “ take holy orders. But your good-
 “ natured mistress contrived, by raising
 “ evil reports of him, to prevent his
 “ scheme from taking effect ; nor this
 “ alone ;

“ alone ; she caused letters to be nicely
 “ counterfeited, which served to awaken
 “ jealousy in his breast, and, in the end,
 “ that blind passion carried him so far
 “ as to attempt the life of one of his
 “ dearest friends ; whom having despe-
 “ rately wounded, he was confined in
 “ prison till the issue of the affair could
 “ be known, where he died in a high fe-
 “ ver attended by a delirium.

“ SUCH was the effect of Miss Dave-
 “ nant's love, converted into hatred ; but
 “ now she has a new gallant, who, if
 “ fame says true, is a near relation also ;
 “ which some have suggested to be the
 “ only reason that she does not mar-
 “ ry him. Be that as it may, it is cer-
 “ tain that she is devoted to him ; and
 “ I have been told that she has made
 “ over the greatest part of her fortune

“ in trust to him, so that her husband if
 “ ever she marries, will have neither
 “ the command of her person nor her
 “ money.

“ HER afflicted sister is now in the
 “ utmost distress, a few miles from Lon-
 “ don; lately she sent to solicit charity
 “ of this her cruel relation, but in vain :
 “ within these three days I shall take
 “ a journey to see her, and cheer her
 “ with some trifling subscriptions, which
 “ I have undertaken to collect for her
 “ use. The lady who entertained us
 “ with the story of the huntress of the
 “ woods I am obliged to for this infor-
 “ mation, which indeed has prevented
 “ me from becoming your rival. Well!
 “ what say you Clerimont? Do you
 “ still continue in the same mind, and
 “ are

“ are you resolved to marry this mirrour
“ of modesty and virtue ?”

“ MAY I perish,” exclaimed I passionately, “ when I entertain so mean,
“ so detestable a thought ! What match
“ myself with a murtheress, a lewd . . .”

“ It is impossible to give her too vile
“ a name,” returned Wilford ; “ but
“ let us talk no more of her. I hold it
“ proper that you reconcile yourself to
“ your former lord, the good earl of
“ P——, and for that purpose, to-mor-
“ row we will if you please attend his
“ levee : with all my heart,” said I,
“ for I am in great need of some power-
“ ful friend and protector.”

Thus ended our conversation, which
when I communicated to my friend Na-
than, he lifted up his hands and eyes,

and used a thousand antic gestures,—
 “ Lord,” said he, “ what a world is
 “ here ! As to Miss Davenant, so great
 “ a lady, so fine a woman ! I could have
 “ laid my life to a china orange on her
 “ honour and virtue. But *you may buy*
 “ *gold too dear. Fronti nulla fides !*”
 “ Well, but his lordship ! I am heartily
 “ glad all is right there again. . . . A
 “ wh—e ! A harlot ! A deceiver ! But
 “ Satan himself can appear sometimes,
 “ they say, in the likeness of an angel of
 “ light.”

WHILE he was thus running on, the door of my chamber opened, and without any ceremony, a form well known to my poor 'squire entered with all the stiffness of formal pedantry. It was Haughton — the very man who had thrust him out of doors. Nathan looked

ed at him with such fierce and wrathful eyes, that I had reason to think he would now have returned him the compliment, had not I arose from my seat, and casting a forbidding look at him, desired my *quondam* employer to come forward.

AFTER receiving my compliment with great majesty, "Young man," said he, "I am come hither to know whether, if
 "I should pardon your former follies,
 "and permit your return, you are willing to stand on your good behaviour
 "*in futuro*, and make my orders the rule
 "and *ne plus ultra* of your actions?"—
 "I thought, Sir," said I, "my place
 "was well supplied by Mr. Marsden;
 "and I seek not at present, to supplant
 "that gentleman."

HEREUPON Mr. Haughton gave me to understand in a formal discourse, that

there was no need for scruples of conscience in this matter; from the tenor of which I learned that Mr. Marsden had suddenly left his business on account of a more advantageous work of his own, nor could, by any means, be persuaded to transcribe another line for him.

For my own part, I had before met with such specimens of his temper as were alone sufficient to prevent my return, besides my hopes from my friendship renewed with Wilford, began again to revive. "Mr. Haughton," said I, "to deal ingenuously with you, I have at present *other*, and as I hope, *better* prospects in view; and, farther, I am fully convinced, our tempers are so ill suited to each other, that there is little likelihood we should ever agree." "*Hoc ad te pertinet*, that is your fault," "replied

“ replied the pedant. If a love of or-
 “ der be disagreeable to you, young
 “ man, this is no failing of mine; but a
 “ depravity in your barbarous taste.”

“ BARBAROUS! O Lord! O Lord!”
 cried Humphreys, no longer able to
 contain himself, “ if you go to that,
 “ what can be more *barbarous* than want
 “ of common civility, and thrusting peo-
 “ ple out of doors. Would any ap-
 “ proved pattern of learning or of chi-
 “ valry, would your Cicero, or your Cæ-
 “ sar have done so, and for no offence
 “ at all. Answer me that !”

“ *Impar congressus!*” exclaimed the
 author, turning up his nose, “ shall I
 “ contest with you, the very dregs and
 “ fæces of mankind. No! Δόξα σοι,
 “ Κυριε! I am of a *genus* or *species* above
 “ this

“ this animal, whose whole race are but
 “ the *quisquilie* of nature in my sight :
 “ but to you, I speak, my *amanuensis*,
 “ you who are more than one degree
 “ superior to him.”

“ NAY, speak to *me*, I insist upon it,”
 cried Humphreys, vexed to be thus de-
 spised, “ God forgive me ! what broken
 “ remnants of learning as I may say
 “ have you tagged together, *dregs* ! why
 “ *dregs* ? *Fæces* ! *doxa soi's* ! and Heaven
 “ knows what stuff. Did you never
 “ read *Deus os homini*, and the rest of
 “ those fine verses ; and are not you
 “ ashamed to despise your fellow crea-
 “ ture ? As Heaven shall judge me,
 “ *omnium rerum vicissitudo* ; every thing
 “ is subject to fortune. You forget
 “ when all your Latin and Greek
 “ could not help you to a dinner ; you
 “ forget

“ forget too what has passed between
 “ you and Nathan Humphreys, when
 “ your *latebra* as you call it was but a
 “ garret, and your *recessus* a dirty flock-
 “ bed. But *pride must have a fall.*”

“ I CAME not,” said Haughton, “ to
 “ be abused by that reptile; for you,
 “ Clerimont, you shall starve or die be-
 “ fore I employ you.”

“ STAY till he asks you,” cried Hum-
 phreys in a passion.

“ SPEAK when you are spoken to,”
 replied the pedant: “ *Abi in malam rem!*
 “ *blaterator! latrator!*”

AND so saying, he made haste to de-
 part, while Nathan, willing to have the
 last word, ran after him down a few
 steps, grinning and repeating:

“ None

“None is so mad as he who errs by rule ;

“No curse like learning uttered by a fool.”

BUT he had scarcely got to the end of the distich, when, attending more to his head than his heels, his foot slipped, and he tumbled against the author, who being a bulky, heavy man soon found the nearest way to the bottom, where he lay bellowing for some time, and his adversary seeing the mischief he had done, easily recovered himself, and walked out at the street-door, very archly observing that he had said, *Pride must have a fall.*

ALARMED at the noise this accident occasioned, I ran down stairs where I found the people of the house, rearing the Telamonian bulk of Haughton by slow degrees from the floor ; who withdrew, cursing and swearing in half a dozen languages, threatening to indict
poor

poor Humphreys for the *false step* he had made.

WHETHER it were that he dreaded the author's anger or my chiding in his presence, I know not, but my 'squire did not appear before me till the evening, when he began to make himself very merry about his adversary's fall, which he had so aptly prophesied; but when I taxed him with having brought about the matter intentionally, he solemnly denied it, and for proof produced a bruise, which I knew him too well to think that he would ever inflict upon his own flesh wantonly.

THE next morning I prepared once more to wait on the earl of P——; and Wilford, true to his appointment, came, at the proper time, to summon me to his presence.

ACCORDINGLY,

ACCORDINGLY, we went to his lordship's levée; where we saw whole crowds, in whose countenances Hope and Fear were strongly depicted. Wilford conducted me to the earl himself, who received me with a pleasant countenance and invited us to drink a dish of chocolate with him.

HIS lordship then took occasion to observe, that he was very sorry for the censure he had passed upon me, and its consequences, but that he had been much imposed upon with regard to Mr. Halsey, who was but a mere weathercock. “A
 “man,” said he, “whose ruling passion
 “lies so open to every one, I find too
 “late is not to be entrusted. But it is
 “not, at present, in my power to reinstate
 “you in that office whence you were
 “discharged

“ discharged on that account ; yet I will
 “ endeavour to recompense you in one
 “ way or another. If you think it worth
 “ your while to visit here, I will think
 “ of something for you.”—I returned
 thanks to the nobleman for his kind
 concern, and withdrew from his presence
 well-enough satisfied.

A DAY or two after this, Wilford proposed my going with him to see Miss Davenant's sister ; to which accordingly I consented, and we set out early in the afternoon for H——.

WHEN we arrived, we found the poor girl in a miserable situation, being lodged in a back garret, which had no other furniture than a wretched bed, far from being calculated to invite to sweet repose : alas ! how unlike the chambers in her
 father's

father's hospitable dwelling! how different from those mansions of peace, the seat of her earlier years!—Poverty and misery were apparent in her visage and her garb; yet the ruined remnants of beauty appeared, like the sun through the mists of autumn, in her once charming face.

WHEN Wilford saluted her, “ Ah! “ my friend, my benefactor,” she cried, “ are you come to comfort me once “ more, and to stay for a while the fleeting “ minutes of my life? for sure they “ verge fast towards an end.”—“ Not “ so,” said he, “ Mrs. Waters; let us “ yet hope better from that Providence “ which watches over the good.”—“ Alas!” resumed she, “ I have indeed “ sorrows sufficient to end me: nor must “ I hope for happiness in this trouble- “ some world. Ah! I have lost all “ that

“ that could to me have sweetened life,
 “ my dear, my faithful, but deluded
 “ husband! All my joys are buried in the
 “ grave with him, never to revive again.
 “ In Heaven’s mercy, I trust to meet
 “ him in a better state, when my ap-
 “ pointed time here on earth shall be
 “ fulfilled.”—“ But your sister,” said
 Wilford. — “ Oh! speak not of her,
 “ Sir! Never was a heart so cruel as that
 “ which she possesses. Wicked as she
 “ is, yet may the ears of Mercy be
 “ more open to her complainings than
 “ hers have been to mine! Ever-gracious!
 “ forgive her offences and let not the
 “ distresses of the unhappy Maria be
 “ added to the account of her sins.”

EVERY word that this distressed beau-
 ty uttered, added to my admiration of
 her.

her. When Mr. Wilford delivered to her the subscription-money which he had collected, she seemed surprized at the largeness of the sum, and in the warmest terms expressed her gratitude. A faint transient joy glowed on her pallid cheek and sparkled in her downcast eye."

"PROVIDENCE," said the afflicted fair-one, "in the midst of my distresses
 "raises me up friends and protectors.
 "O Mr. Wilford! since last I saw you
 "I have been visited by one of my own
 "sex, a young lady, surely the most
 "lovely and most compassionate of
 "women. Even now do I expect her
 "arrival, to remove me from this scene
 "of wretchedness to some place of
 "comfort, where I may spend the few
 "remaining hours of sorrow, yet allotted me in this world. Alas! she
 seems

“ seems herself to be in affliction. Oh!
“ Heavens! that she whose heart can
“ melt for other's woes, should ever
“ have occasion to lament her own.”

WHILST she spoke thus, I was rapt in deep reflexion on the fate of Virtue and Vice in this sublunary world. “ Surely,” said I to myself “ if we judge from outward appearance, happiness is far from being the lot of the good. Their hearts are moved at the miseries of mankind, their eyes overflow for others sorrows. Every one takes the advantage of their benevolent disposition to bring them into vexation; and, when reduced by their own beneficence, every one scorns them for their weakness, and many are ready to blast their characters who only subsisted on their bounty: while Vice
“ rides

“rides triumphant over order and treads
 “all things sacred under foot: for who
 “shall contradict the rich and great?
 “Who knows how soon he may himself
 “stand in need of their assistance? Thus
 “the wicked are flattered in their crimes,
 “and encouraged in their haughtiness
 “of spirit. Yet how is it possible, in
 “our uncertain state, that this should
 “be remedied. But these, surely, are
 “only reserved to an after-punishment
 “and to the stings of a guilty con-
 “science. How vain, (short-sighted
 “mortals!) are then our complaints and
 “murmurings against the dispensations
 “of Heaven. Let us do but our part
 “to fulfil our office in the scale of
 “beings, and leave it to Eternal Provi-
 “dence to take care of the rest.”

I WAS

I WAS awakened from this reverie by hearing a female voice on the stairs which was charming beyond the melody of the sweetest music, and presently after the lovely, and (as I had thought) for ever lost Leonora, presented herself before my wondering eyes. It is impossible for pen to describe our mutual astonishment. "Oh Clerimont!" cried the dear creature, and instantly fainted away. I ran to support her, but was little more able to bear the sudden surprize than herself. With the kind assistance of Wilford, however, I reared her, and sending for a coach we persuaded her, when she revived, to quit this wretched place and drive off towards my friend's lodgings; where when we arrived, that gentleman withdrawing, I intreated her to make me acquainted with what had

happened to her since last I saw her, vowing never more to part from her till I should have gained her consent for our union if really she were not married to my rival. "Ah speak" said I, "and let me know my fate: if you have resigned yourself up into your cousin's arms, then am I indeed condemned to be miserable."—"No, Mr. Clerimont," interrupted Leonora. No intreaties, no force could prevail upon me to wed another; though the extraordinary stories every where I heard of your conduct, made me very dubious of your constancy. Instead therefore of this unseasonable rapture, it will be proper that you make me acquainted with the grounds of these and satisfy me in such particulars as I may ask of you before you demand from me a

"a renewal

“ a renewal of those vows which once I
“ exchanged with you. Have you kept
“ your's unbroken, and must I give no
“ credit to what I have heard even from
“ the mouths of your own friends and
“ servants ?”

IN answer to this, I related as briefly as I could all that had befallen me without concealing any one circumstance that occurred to my memory, and took no small pains to convince my Leonora of the error which the blundering Humphreys had occasioned.

WHEN I had finished my recital and justification : “ Ah ! Mr. Clerimont,”
“ said she, “ your language has been
“ always too persuasive to me. I have
“ ever regarded you in the most favour-

“ able light. Hear now what I have
 “ gone through on your account, aban-
 “ doned by my friends and relations,
 “ and driven from my ancient home;
 “ and then, if you estimate my regard
 “ for you by these circumstances, you
 “ will surely have no reason to com-
 “ plain.

“ AFTER the unlucky accident that
 “ happened at our house and your de-
 “ parture from B——l, I plainly per-
 “ ceived that my uncle was resolved at
 “ plying with this sacrifice.—Yet the
 “ very day was fixed on, and no way
 “ but that of eloping from my cruel
 “ relations remained. This was dif-
 “ agreeable to think on and difficult to
 “ put in practice; it was now well-known
 “ to me that Sally was false, and had
 “ betrayed

“ betrayed my interests ; so I was left to
 “ scheme entirely by myself. And first
 “ I pretended sickness, and kept my
 “ chamber, till by degrees as recovering
 “ my health I used to walk in the garden
 “ every evening. The gardener whom
 “ my uncle employed, as you know,
 “ had a daughter, a smart girl, about
 “ the age of nineteen, to whom, in defect
 “ of a better confidante, I now com-
 “ municated my circumstances, and my
 “ design of quitting the house. The
 “ young woman was inclined to assist
 “ me, and, accordingly, conveyed, from
 “ time to time, some bundles which I
 “ thought necessary to take with me, to
 “ her father’s cottage ; she having
 “ provided me with a mean attire, I
 “ found an opportunity one night to
 “ put it on, and go off with her. As

“ her father was generally out all day
 “ at work he knew nothing of the affair;
 “ and she found means to bring out
 “ my baggage unnoticed from her
 “ chamber. We walked all night and
 “ arriving in the morning at a little vil-
 “ lage set out in the stage for, B——d
 “ within a few miles of London, where
 “ I sought for my aunt, to whose care I
 “ intended to have committed myself;
 “ but found that she was removed from
 “ thence, and gone to settle in the me-
 “ tropolis, whither I resolved also to
 “ betake myself.

“ ON my arrival I was not a little
 “ puzzled in what manner to proceed
 “ or how to accommodate myself with
 “ proper lodgings; a stranger as I was
 “ in London. It is true I might have
 “ been

“ been eased of this doubt if I would
 “ have applied to any of my uncles for
 “ respondents in the capital; but so far
 “ was I from desiring to make myself
 “ known to them, that I supposed my
 “ utmost caution scarcely sufficient to
 “ keep me out of their way. In this
 “ perplexity I had no other resource but
 “ that of applying to the inn-keeper at
 “ whose house we put up, by whom I
 “ got recommended to a lodging toler-
 “ ably neat and commodious at one
 “ Mrs. Blond’s a millener’s in West-
 “ minster, where I proposed staying
 “ till I should be able to discover my
 “ kinswoman’s habitation; a task which
 “ I found would be very difficult, as I
 “ was not furnished with proper direc-
 “ tions.

“ In the interim, a gentleman of
 “ fashion, who used frequently to visit
 “ at Mrs Blond's, took great notice
 “ of me, and said he believed he for-
 “ merly had some knowledge of my
 “ person. A young lady generally
 “ came with him, whom he called sister,
 “ and who took great pains also to in-
 “ gratiate herself with me; till at last I
 “ was weak enough to make her the
 “ confidante of my affairs.

“ Mrs Blond gave me to understand
 “ that the gentleman was a knight and a
 “ man of fortune: I cannot say I was
 “ the more desirous of his acquaintance
 “ on that account: his sister however had
 “ gained such an ascendancy over me as
 “ it was not easy for me to shake off;
 “ and having no friends in London, I
 “ was,

“ was, in some measure, necessitated to
 “ accept of proffered favour and protec-
 “ tion.

“ THE lady sometimes invited me to
 “ her brother's house in Berkeley-Square;
 “ where, as often as I went, I found
 “ myself elegantly entertained, and
 “ treated with great complaisance and re-
 “ spect. Sir Francis B—— (that was his
 “ name) even offered to write to my
 “ friends in B——l in my behalf, but
 “ this I did not, at that time chuse to
 “ give him the trouble of doing, as I
 “ really thought it would answer the
 “ end proposed. The knight seemed,
 “ however, greatly to compassionate my
 “ case, and expressed his astonishment
 “ that my aunt could not be heard of,
 “ though, as he said, he had privately
 F 5 “ enquired

“ enquired for her among my relations
 “ and friends.

“ Miss B—— now proposed taking
 “ me, as her companion; an offer, which,
 “ circumstanced as I was, I chose to
 “ accept, at least till I should see what
 “ turn my affairs were likely to take;
 “ and I was the more readily induced
 “ to do so, from the great apparent
 “ politeness and tender behaviour of the
 “ young lady, with whom I was to re-
 “ main. Accordingly I put myself un-
 “ der her protection; and the poor girl
 “ who had accompanied me from
 “ B——], was by her means, as she said,
 “ recommended to a service in town.

“ For some time my days passed as
 “ happily as could be expected, con-
 “ sidering

“ fidering the precarious fituation I was
 “ in; and I had no occafion to com-
 “ plain of my treatment. Mifs B —
 “ behaving to me as a fifter and a
 “ friend. All poffible means were de-
 “ vifed to divert and entertain me, and
 “ once I fuffered myfelf to be fo far pre-
 “ vailed on by their entreaties as to ap-
 “ pear in public at the Play, when
 “ hearing my name (which I would
 “ have had concealed) echoed by the
 “ attendants who called for, in my name,
 “ what was properly the knight’s car-
 “ riage, I was much difpleafed; and
 “ my difpleafure was not a little
 “ heightened, when I heard that fome
 “ very curious enquiries were made
 “ concerning me that very evening (of
 “ which falfe alarm I find you were
 “ yourfelf the author) Sir Francis ap-
 F 6 “ peared

“ peared greatly concerned at this, and
 “ once more pressed me to let him write
 “ or speak to my relations about my
 “ affairs ; to which at last I consented ;
 “ and one day, having been abroad all
 “ the morning, he came home much
 “ discontented, saying he had been with
 “ some of my uncle’s correspondents, by
 “ whom he was assured that all efforts
 “ towards a reconciliation with them
 “ would be ineffectual, unless I would
 “ consent to be married to my cousin.

“ Thus all hopes being cut off from
 “ that quarter, I was made to believe
 “ that I had no other resource left but
 “ the protection of the family I was in
 “ at present. Miss B——— endeavoured
 “ to comfort me on this occasion, and
 “ Sir Francis swore passionately that,
 “ however

“ however my friends might think
 “ proper to conduct themselves towards
 “ me, I should never yet want for
 “ friendship and assistance while he
 “ survived. He proceeded, likewise
 “ (as he made me believe) to write a
 “ letter to Mr. Harwood about the
 “ matter, and to use every argu-
 “ ment that he could think on, to in-
 “ duce him to receive me, without in-
 “ sisting upon the cruel condition that
 “ had been mentioned to me; and a
 “ few days afterwards, he brought me a
 “ letter written, as he said, by Mr. Har-
 “ wood’s clerk, and signed with that gen-
 “ tleman’s name : the contents were as
 “ follow.

“ SIR FRANCIS,
 “ I HAVE received your polite letter,
 “ and cannot but own myself obliged to
 “ you for the part you have hitherto
 “ taken

NO THE FARMER'S SON OF KENT.

“ taken in the affairs of that obstinate
“ girl, my niece. However, I desire
“ not her return to *me*, unless she will
“ return to her *obedience* also : if she will
“ do the latter, I will endeavour to pre-
“ vail on her cousin, with all her faults,
“ to receive her : if not, I shall never
“ look upon nor countenance her more.
“ Yet could any one have persuaded me
“ to alter my mind, none sooner than
“ Sir Francis B—— could have wrought
“ that change on his very obliged hum-
“ ble servant J. Harwood.”

“ I WAS much discomposed when the
“ knight read this letter to me, which I
“ deemed authentic, and vented many
“ exclamations against my kinsman for
“ his inexorable temper. It is needless
“ to tell you I was determined not to
“ return

“ return on such conditions. Whilst I
 “ was reflecting upon these things, Molly
 “ come to enquire for me, and told me
 “ she had heard of you. I sent her to
 “ you accordingly, and you are well ac-
 “ quainted with the extraordinary an-
 “ swer she brought me, which contri-
 “ buted (as you will judge) to increase
 “ my uneasiness. As to what appeared
 “ in the papers from you, I only looked
 “ upon it as a mere excuse, and in re-
 “ turn caused to be inserted what you
 “ said, gave you so much uneasiness.

“ ALL these concurring circumstances
 “ served, as it were, to prepare the way
 “ for a scheme which at that time I lit-
 “ tle dreamed of :

“ A LITTLE while after this Miss
 “ B—— came into my apartment, seem-
 “ ingly

“ ingly in a very melancholy humour.

“ When I asked her why she appeared

“ so sad, alas! said she, my brother!

“ and fetched a deep sigh. — “ Sir

“ Francis, what of him, cried I? Is he

“ not well? No returned the lady, he

“ labours, Miss Harwood, under such a

“ malady as we have reason to fear is

“ incurable.

“ AFTER much pressing for a more

“ explicit answer. Oh Miss Harwood,

“ said she, my brother (looking sted-

“ fastly on me) is in love—in love?

“ and is that all, cried I, laughing, I

“ dare say no lady will be so ill-natured

“ as to let a gentleman of Sir Francis's

“ fortune and accomplishments die of

“ that malady. Be not too certain, re-

“ turned Miss B——. “ Oh! child,

“ could

“ could you think it? Yet why should I
 “ tell it you as a wonder, it is for you
 “ my dear, and only you that he sighs;
 “ yet is his sense of honour so great that,
 “ hearing of your engagements to an-
 “ other, he has never yet ventured to re-
 “ veal the hidden, and as I fear fatal it
 “ will prove the secret of his passion!
 “ her last words struck me as if they
 “ had been ominous.

“ AFTER some confusion. You do
 “ not well, Miss B——,” said I, “ to
 “ mock me thus. May Heaven re-
 “ nounce me, replied she earnestly, if I
 “ mock you. My brother, Sir Francis
 “ B——, the heir to this house, and the
 “ possessor of a great estate, loves you, he
 “ would marry you and make you the
 “ mistress of all his wealth and grandeur,
 “ he

114 THE FARMER'S SON OF KENT.

“ he would esteem your hand as a fa-
“ vour, and on his knees receive it.
“ Nay more, he has employed me to
“ plead his cause with you, and I have
“ undertaken to be his advocate, though
“ by your countenance I am afraid I
“ shall prove a troublesome one; but re-
“ solve me, Leonora, are you so unal-
“ terably fixed to Mr. Clerimont, a
“ youth of whose present situation and
“ circumstances you profess yourself ig-
“ norant, as not to allow the least dawn
“ of hope to my poor brother? Speak I
“ conjure you; yet weigh the affair well
“ in your mind, lest you too hastily
“ should pronounce a sentence whereon
“ so much is likely to depend.”

“ My dear patroness,” returned I, “ if
“ you will permit me to deliver my sen-
“ timents

" timents undisguised, my speech shall
 " be as ingenuous as my heart is open
 " and artless. I acknowledge the great
 " honour intended me by your brother,
 " but I cannot accept it without doing
 " a violence to my inclinations, and for-
 " feiting besides my vows which as you
 " have already heard me declare, are else
 " where engaged. Should I, or could
 " I prove false to them, what second tie
 " could be sufficiently binding? You
 " flatter my vanity so far as to tell me
 " I have made an impression on Sir
 " Francis: you tell me also, madam,
 " that he is very uneasy on my account,
 " if it be so, then take away the cause,
 " and the effect will cease; permit me
 " for a while to remove myself from his
 " presence. Absence, at least, will cure
 " this temporary gust of passion, which
 " shakes

“ shakes his better reason. Let me go
 “ any whither; let me do any thing
 “ which may banish it from his breast.
 “ You have called yourself your bro-
 “ ther’s advocate, will you in this respect
 “ condescend to be mine, and beg him
 “ to allow for a while of my absence?
 “ Excuse, madam, the freedom of my
 “ speech; after what you have averred,
 “ I dare not any longer believe that you
 “ mock me, and this is all the answer I
 “ can give.” — “ Sorry am I, replied
 “ Miss B—— to be the bearer of such
 “ an one, which will break my brother’s
 “ heart with sorrow; but since it must
 “ be so, I will even do as you have said.

“ AFTER many conversations had pass-
 “ ed between us on this head, Miss
 “ B—— told me, at last, that she had
 “ prevailed.

“ prevailed on Sir Francis, who was still
 “ much indisposed, to let me withdraw a
 “ while to a country seat of his, a few
 “ miles from London; whither accord-
 “ ingly I set out as soon as possible, and
 “ arrived there in good spirits, where I
 “ found only an old woman, and a foot-
 “ man; who, as it seemed, were planted
 “ there on that purpose to receive me;
 “ I had not stayed long in this retire-
 “ ment before, to my great surprize the
 “ knight arrived there likewise. Miss
 “ Harwood,” said he, “ I doubt not
 “ wonders to see me here; but I am not
 “ come to make a long abode with her.
 “ At your pleasure, Sir Francis, re-
 “ turned I; it is not for me to prescribe
 “ rules to you.

“ ALL the day he remained here, and
 “ at night insisted upon my company to
 “ supper,

“supper, when he began, as it were in-
 “sensibly to fall into an amorous dis-
 “course which was far from being
 “agreeable to me, as I gave him to un-
 “derstand. Well,” said he, “then I
 “must say no more; I have suffered
 “much for you; but you are a virtuous
 “girl, that is the truth. He then fetch-
 “ed a deep sigh, and changed the con-
 “versation. I know not how it was,
 “but all that night I lay the prey of
 “uneasy thoughts, and closed not my
 “eyes till the dawn of day peeped in
 “upon my troubled couch, then dreams
 “disturbed my rest. One time, me-
 “thought, I was sent back bound to my
 “cruel relations, and on the point of be-
 “ing forced to the altar with my hated
 “cousin; ~~and~~ another, I saw myself ex-
 “posed upon a barren heath to roaring
 “thunder,

“ thunder, and howling tempests, in
“ the midst of the lightning's blaze Sir
“ Francis stood at my side, threatening
“ me with instant death.

“ I AWAKED in terrors, and without
“ the balmy comforts of my natural
“ rest. When I saw my patron, I ima-
“ gined his eyes were filled with a
“ gloomy fire: trembled when he but
“ spoke, and secretly wished myself in
“ London again. He observed my con-
“ fusion. Bless me, child,” said he,
“ what is the matter that you are thus
“ disordered. I answered him I know
“ not what; but that day passed on
“ nearly as the former had done, except-
“ ing only that the subject which had
“ given me offence was not touched up-
“ on. But this was reserved as it ap-
“ peared

“ peared only, at another time to be
 “ treated in a more copious and a more
 “ unwarrantable manner.

“ ON the morning of the third day
 “ Sir Francis sent for me into his par-
 “ lour, and shutting the door : come hi-
 “ ther my dear,” said he : “ I must have
 “ a little private conversation with you.
 “ I am sorry my declaration of love has
 “ been disagreeable to your ears ; and
 “ the more so, since I am constrained
 “ now to renew it. I owe this to my-
 “ self, to my own health and welfare,
 “ and therefore I must beg your patient
 “ attention to what I am about to de-
 “ liver.”—“ I was alarmed ; I knew not
 “ what answer to make him : I stood
 “ mute therefore, and suffered him to
 “ proceed without interruption. I love
 “ you

“ you Leonora,” continued he, “ and my
 “ passion is so ardent, that it must be
 “ gratified. I am aware you will reply
 “ with your *vows* and *fixed affections* and
 “ I know not what stuff; but these an-
 “ swers can be no longer admitted.— I
 “ can inform you that the object of your
 “ love is unworthy, that he cares not
 “ for you, that he is in low and destitute
 “ circumstances the effect of his extra-
 “ vagance. Turn then from the va-
 “ grant to one who loves you, to one
 “ who is both willing and able to pro-
 “ vide for you. You must be mine; I
 “ cannot part with you; Self pre-
 “ servation denies it. Content yourself
 “ therefore, and prepare to be as happy
 “ with me as I am disposed to make
 “ you. Lay aside your coyness, and be
 “ mistress of me and of my fortune.

“ Now what say you Leonora?” “ What
 “ can I say,” replied I, sobbing, “ what
 “ other answer can I return than such
 “ as already I have given?—I am fixed
 “ in my determinations: I honour, I respect
 “ Sir Francis, but I cannot present
 “ him with a heart which is already
 “ another’s. Meanwhile I am obliged
 “ to him for his protection, but even
 “ that in future I find I must decline.”

“ COME, come, Leonora,” returned
 the Knight, “ let us leave this childish
 “ stuff. It is high time you should
 “ know your own happiness; but if
 “ *you* do not, it is at least time that *I*
 “ should be wise, and seek mine. Much
 “ more of this he said, and in the end
 “ told me plainly that I must not stir
 “ from that his wicked mansion till I
 “ had

“ had consented to make him *happy* as
 “ he termed it: But! oh monstrous;
 “ what a shocking idea did he conceal
 “ under that specious word! He avow-
 “ ed himself the libertine. I plainly per-
 “ ceived that the servants, who attended
 “ me were his creatures, and that I was
 “ entirely in his power.

“ I WITHDREW in tears, the wretch
 “ telling me, that as he had now thrown
 “ off the mask, he must be so plain with
 “ me as to inform me that I had only
 “ two days to consider on his proposal,
 “ and that till I had determined upon
 “ it, I was no other than his prisoner.
 “ I retired to my chamber, where I
 “ fastened myself in, and fell into an
 “ agony of rage and grief. Heavens!
 “ said I, is this the end of all my schemes:

“ have I for this ran away from my
 “ friends, to avoid a hated marriage,
 “ and only to fall into the hands of this
 “ vile lecher?—And is this my patron
 “ and protector, this my advocate with
 “ my incensed relations? Ah! I am
 “ ensnared, ruined, betrayed; and no
 “ hope, no help is left me.

“ Thus spent I in grief the silent
 “ hours, and wasted the night in com-
 “ plainings. In the morning I arose to
 “ fresh sorrows, and found fresh occa-
 “ sion for lamentation. My persecutor
 “ sent to invite me down stairs to a
 “ second conference; but this I absolutely
 “ refused, and opened my door only to
 “ receive such sustenance as was brought
 “ me by the woman servant. Thus I
 “ remained for two days; when at last
 “ my

“ my tormentor found means of rushing
 “ into my room, together with the
 “ servant. “ Now, Leonora,” said he,
 “ I am determined no longer to be trifled
 “ with, and since you will not yield to
 “ *reason*, I am determined that you shall
 “ to *force*.—All remonstrances will now
 “ be vain; one way, or the other, I am
 “ determined that you shall comply:
 “ in what manner is left to your choice,”

“ So saying he advanced towards
 “ me. I screamed aloud; but no a
 “ soul came to my assistance; the ser-
 “ vant indeed stood by, but seemed
 “ rather as if she waited there for the
 “ furtherance of her master's vile purpo-
 “ ses, than for any other reason.—“ I tell
 “ you again and again, Leonora,” said
 “ he, “ that this perverseness of yours

“ cannot possibly answer any end, seeing
 “ you are so entirely in my power.
 “ Yield therefore to become my beloved
 “ mistress and companion : yield, or this
 “ instant, in spite of your affected delicacy,
 “ you shall be obliged to comply
 “ with my desires.”

“ THE monster's actions were such
 “ as served too fully to confirm his
 “ menace ; for he pressed upon me so
 “ closely, and used, in spite of my efforts,
 “ such indecencies as left no room to
 “ doubt that he was in earnest, and too
 “ much to fear his brutal strength would
 “ prevail against my sex's weakness. I
 “ now conjured him in the most moving
 “ terms to desist from violence, and
 “ grant me an hearing ! “ Well (said he,)
 “ loosing me from his loathed embrace,
 “ what

“ what have you to offer? I would much
 “ rather have the consent of your will
 “ than thus force you, coy as you are to
 “ our mutual happiness. But take heed,
 “ do not trifle with me: promise so-
 “ lemnly to be mine and for this time I
 “ will again leave you to yourself.”—
 “ If you have any sense of good, re-
 “ plied I, if you have any pity or com-
 “ passion, shew it in disesteeming from this
 “ devilish enterprize! I soon found,
 “ however, that addressing him in this
 “ manner was but pouring oil, as it
 “ were upon the flame which I wished
 “ to extinguish; nor did there remain
 “ any other course than that of giving
 “ him some distant hopes that a more
 “ mild behaviour might be likely to do
 “ his cause some service.

“ As much as I detested this kind of
 “ temporizing I was now obliged to use
 “ it: and thus I contrived to gain a
 “ little more time, which I yet thought
 “ dearly purchased, since some of it I
 “ was obliged to spend in his company,
 “ and to endure such discourse as ill
 “ comported with him to use or with
 “ me to hear.

“ As soon as I retired to my bed, I
 “ began to ruminate on what was past,
 “ and to shudder with the reflexion on
 “ the danger that I had so lately escaped.
 “ —Heavens!” said I, “ and must I again
 “ be exposed to such treatment! Forbid it,
 “ virtue; forbid it modesty! never can
 “ I survive the trial. Many a weary hour
 “ did I pass in devising means for my
 “ escape; but I could fix on none,
 “ which

“ which were any way probable; and
 “ the dawn of the next day was as un-
 “ welcome to me as that of the former,
 “ had been; yet I was obliged in some
 “ measure to smoothe my brow before
 “ Sir Francis, and to forbear contradicting
 “ him when he advanced such principles
 “ as I even shuddered to hear. Unhap-
 “ py state! for a woman to be thus redu-
 “ ced to a silence in the cause of virtue
 “ when most she wants an advocate.
 “ Such was my present case. Secretly I
 “ prayed to Heaven; and I prayed not in
 “ vain: deliverance was at hand. No more
 “ I slept beneath the cursed roof, no
 “ more was doomed to bear the bar-
 “ barous man’s insults upon my virtue.
 “ Though confined in the house I was
 “ not now kept a prisoner in my cham-
 “ ber; though I perceived myself in

“ general very closely watched. Sir
“ Francis after dinner had occasion to
“ go out, and he gave charge of me to
“ his female domestic. But I found
“ the means to elude her vigilance.
“ From my room, which was two sto-
“ ries high, straying into the next cham-
“ ber I perceived the gate of the garden,
“ open into which it looked. At the
“ same time I saw something hanging
“ out of the window-seat, which curiosity
“ prompting me to lift up, to my great
“ joy I found to be a ladder of ropes,
“ which, as it seemed, had been placed
“ there as a provision in case of fire, or
“ any accident happening. This I
“ immediately used for my purpose; and
“ having, with quick dispatch, parcelled
“ up such of my things as lay nearest
“ hand, I threw them out at the win-
“ dow;

“dow; and then descended with trem-
 “bling steps, and committing myself
 “to the care of Heaven, made haste
 “to fly from the wicked mansion.

“It was now the evening twilight,
 “when I found myself upon a wide
 “heath; and being a stranger in that
 “neighbourhood, was utterly at a loss
 “which way to direct my course. A
 “curling smoke, rising from a distant
 “chimney was all my determination in
 “this matter, I set forward, towards
 “that part of the common where, after
 “many a weary a step, at last I arrived.
 “I found it to be a little public house.
 “Here I would fain have rested myself
 “for that night; but this I was told
 “was impracticable, and I was obli-
 “ged to proceed for London, whither

“ my host directed me. He expressed
 “ great wonder at my situation, which
 “ did not indeed suit with my appear-
 “ ance, the latter being far from des-
 “ picable, while the former was indeed
 “ truly deplorable.

“ Thus I continued my journey,
 “ during the season of darkness ; for
 “ the morn had not as yet arisen ; but
 “ just as she peered from the east, I
 “ entered a little village within about
 “ four miles from the metropolis.
 “ Here I asked my way of a servant
 “ maid, whom I saw standing at the
 “ door of a large house ; which she
 “ kindly informed me of, adding,
 “ Miss ; you seem to be tired”—“ I
 “ am indeed,” returned I, “ and I fear
 “ I shall not be able to reach my jour-
 “ ney’s

“ney’s end to-night. Poor young lady,
 “(said she) will you walk in, hither and
 “rest yourself for a while? My mistress
 “is gone to London and will not re-
 “turn this night or, even if she should,
 “I am sure she would not be angry
 “to see you here; I know she would
 “not.”—I accepted the good-natured
 “offer, and entered the house, which
 “was a very handsome one.

“IN the course of my conversation
 “with my new hostess, I was astonished
 “beyond measure to find that I was in
 “the house of my own aunt, whom I
 “had sought so long in vain. She was
 “gone to London on some business, and
 “had left but this one servant behind
 “her. I was easily persuaded to remain
 “there all the night, and the next
 “morning

“ morning gave me to the arms of my
 “ relation.

“ I NEED not tell you, Mr. Cleri-
 “ mont, that this was a joyful meeting.
 “ We came not to town till the last
 “ week, when a friend of my aunt’s hav-
 “ ing informed her of the deplorable
 “ situation of poor Mrs. Waters, re-
 “ membering my own misfortunes, I was
 “ proud to be the minister of comfort
 “ to her in her afflictions ; and this very
 “ day proposed removing her from her
 “ miserable habitation to one where she
 “ might be more at ease. In the exer-
 “ cise of this act of charity, you see it
 “ has pleased Heaven that we should
 “ once again meet. Yet, believe me,
 “ Clerimont, in our present circum-
 “ stances scarcely can I say that I rejoice
 “ much at the encounter. My friends
 “ (if

“ (if such they may still be called) seem
 “ bent on distressing me; and except
 “ my good aunt, I have none to whom I
 “ can trust for assistance and support.”

“ My dear Leonora,” said I, “ what
 “ troubles have you experienced! but
 “ let us not be now industrious in rais-
 “ ing to ourselves fresh sources of
 “ uneasiness; now, when Heaven has
 “ brought us together, almost by mira-
 “ cle, let us not separate ourselves, but
 “ resolve upon that union which two
 “ fond hearts already joined like ours in
 “ the sweet bonds of affection must na-
 “ turally incline to. Here then let our
 “ felicity begin.” — “ Whither, Sir,
 cried the fair one, “ would your eager-
 “ ness transport you? Is this a time to
 “ talk of union and endearments? See
 “ you not how we are both embarrassed?”

“ Oh

“ Oh my adorable girl,” returned I,
“ love shall make every burden easy; that
“ alone shall be sufficient to sweeten all
“ the cares of life, and render every toil
“ a pleasure.” “ Is this,” resumed Miss
Harwood, “ is this the prudence of Mr.
“ Clerimont? Attend now but a mo-
“ ment, whilst I recount to you our situa-
“ tion ; and then reflect seriously on the
“ impropriety of your proposal. For
“ me, I am forlorn, abandoned by those
“ who ought to support me, under the
“ restraint of the laws of the land, and
“ in every respect subject to the will of
“ others. Need I remind you of your
“ own circumstances, your orphan state,
“ and the impossibility that you should
“ make yourself happy with me, unless
“ some change of fortune should unex-
“ pectedly happen?” “ And how,”
cried

cried I, "do our circumstances differ so
 "widely, that we should not now under-
 "take what some time since was the im-
 "mediate object of our choice?" "Oh
 "name it not (said Miss Harwood) re-
 "cal not to my mind our former fol-
 "lies. If we were inconsiderate enough
 "then to adopt such schemes, it is now
 "time we should see the absurdity of
 "them. Believe me, Mr. Clerimont,
 "love is a tender plant, and it requires
 "much cherishing. Seldom, very sel-
 "dom in the conjugal state, is it proof
 "against the rough blasts of adversity.
 "But these arguments ought rather to
 "come from you than from me, from
 "you, whose stronger reason ought
 "to rise superior to your passions, and
 "teach them to move regularly on under
 "her discipline. Is it not sufficient,
 "that

“ that I have promised to be yours, and
 “ yours only? Let this content you;
 “ and let us wait with patience till we
 “ shall be able to adjust matters in a
 “ manner more favourable to our pur-
 “ poses. My aunt has written to her
 “ cousin in my behalf. Let us attend
 “ the success of this business, and plan
 “ our measures accordingly. If you are
 “ prudent, thus you will act; and I trust
 “ you will not suffer a woman to outdo
 “ you in fortitude and resolution.”

WITH these, and many arguments
 of a similar nature, did the charmer
 dissuade me from that union which
 my soul was set upon. I could not
 but acknowledge the force of her rea-
 sonings, whilst I sighed at the conse-
 quences. Wilford's entrance put an
 end

end to our conversation ; and Miss Harwood returned to her aunt's, whither I also accompanied her.

THE good old lady being told who I was, received me with marks of great regard, and entertained me in a friendly manner. “ I assure you, Sir,” said she, “ my niece has suffered much on your account, yet if your appearance speak you truly, you will deserve her in the end. I have writen to my cousin in her favour ; but Heaven knows what will be the result of it. I would it were in my power to settle these difficulties. Leonora should not remain long in perplexity.”

AFTER spending a chearful evening with Miss Harwood and her worthy relation,

lation, I returned home much comforted with the hopes of seeing happier days. It was late the next morning before I arose; when Humphreys delivered me a letter that contained an invitation from Miss Davenant which at that time I chose to decline. I made my trusty 'squire acquainted with my reasons for this conduct, and related to him the extraordinary adventure which had happened in consequence of my visit to the sister of that lady, "Troth now" said he, "I am glad you are so well pleased; " but I do not see any rare fortune you " have had——You have lost one " sweetheart, and are as far as ever, " for aught I can find, from the hopes of " obtaining *the other*: However all's " one for that; *Content is a jewel, and " happiness is but opinion.*"

THOUGH

THOUGH it must be owned there was some truth in Nathan's observation, yet it was far from being agreeable to me in my present situation of mind; and I believe I signified as much by my countenance; for he dropped the discourse, shrugging up his shoulders, and crying, "God forgive me! Well! it " is not any business of mine!"

I WAS frequent in my visits to my mistress all the time she remained in London; but this was not long; for within a few weeks she informed me that her uncle, by his letters had signified his willingness to be reconciled to her, if she would but return to him, and live under his inspection till she should come of age, giving also her solemn promise that she would not think of bestowing

bestowing herself in marriage either to me or any one else till that period; on which condition, he said, he would be content to drop his solicitations on the behalf of his nephew, leaving him to be his own advocate with her.

THIS offer of reconciliation Miss Harwood found it highly her interest to accept; nor could I, without the greatest appearance of selfishness, persuade her to reject it: yet I drew an ill omen from this early separation, and we parted not from each other without great signs of sorrow and regret.

Miss Davenant, in the mean time, was highly offended with the slights which she perceived I put upon her, and sent me a very severe letter on that subject, intimating

intimating at the same time, that she was acquainted with some matters relative to me, which she would keep me ignorant of in order to punish me. This I only smiled at, but found afterwards that there was cause sufficient for me to dread her revenge. Wilford all this time pressed me to keep up my intimacy with the Earl of R****, from whom he said I might assure myself of support and assistance.

BUT now an extraordinary affair happened, which engrossed a great deal of my attention, and occasioned many mistakes and cross accidents which afterwards perplexed and crossed me in my road to happiness.

I WAS passing late one night along the streets of Covent-Garden attended by
Mr.

Mr. Humphreys, I perceived a man, closely muffled, forcing a lady into a hackney coach, who seemed to make signs of resistance, yet she uttered not a word; however, as it was possible the person who endeavoured to force her away might have stopped her mouth, I was resolved to follow, on hearing the directions given to the driver. They stopped at a bagnio, where a man elegantly dressed received them.

HERE the compulsion and resistance were again repeated, when at last, the lady getting the liberty of her speech; exclaimed, " Oh! Heaven! Save me from the ravisher!" On this, I stepped between them, demanding what business they had to treat a woman thus, against her will. She is a notorious harlot,
the

answered the gentleman “ and she shall
 “ go with me, by G—d.” “ Nay, but
 “ Sir,” said I, “ if the lady is not willing
 “ Oh! save me, save me,” cried
 the fair stranger. “ Stand off,” said the
 ravisher, in a menacing tone, “ leave
 “ her to me. Not,” returned I, “ till
 “ you shew by what right you behave
 “ thus.” On this the richly dressed man
 drew. I had also my sword and stood
 on my defence; but should undoubtedly
 have been struck down behind by his
 coadjutor, had not Humphreys, at that
 instant come up, and engaged him with a
 stick he had in his hand. I had the
 good fortune to disarm my gentleman,
 who withdrew among the crowd by
 this time gathered round us, his com-
 panion, having fled before the lady,
 fainted into my friend’s arms; from
 whom I took her, and was greatly sur-

prized to see a well-known face, no other than that of my old acquaintance, Miss Ancram. I instantly conveyed her from the throng of gazers, and calling a coach, ere yet she was well recovered, I put her into it and drove to a friend's, where I requested the mistress of the house to accommodate her with a lodging. "Heavens! said she, on hearing my voice, is it Mr. Clerimont to whom I am obliged for this signal deliverance! Oh! I have such a tale to tell you! Spare it till to-morrow" said I tenderly pressing her hand. Your fatigues seem to demand the relief of a present repose. In the morning I will attend you, and shall then perhaps communicate things as strange as any which you have to tell me, till

" when

“ when adieu!” And so saying, I departed, leaving her to her needful rest.

THE succeeding day I repaired, according to promise, to Miss Ancram's apartment, where I found her newly arisen, sitting in a melancholy attitude, her head leaning upon her hand, and the tear starting from her eye. Ah! Mr. Clerimont, my deliverer are you come,” said she “ I wanted your friendly advice and assistance. Much have I sustained since you saw me at my father's house and much more, I fear, I am destined to sustain, before my weary feet are led into the paths of happiness.”

SHE then related to me what had befallen her since she left the country,

till her arrival in London. “ As soon as
“ I reached the metropolis,” continued
the lady, “ I made secret enquiries
“ concerning you, but in vain : I then
“ betook myself to a young lady’s house
“ who had been formerly my friend in
“ the country. She was lately married,
“ and received me with great cordiality
“ and affection ; — for some time I was
“ as happy as I could expect to be in
“ my situation ; till my young friend’s
“ husband unfortunately conceived a
“ passion for me, which, regardless of
“ his marriage-vow, he was determined
“ to indulge. He discovered to me his
“ criminal flame ; I checked him with
“ what I deemed a just reproof ; but
“ from that time there was no peace
“ for me beneath his roof, which I should
“ certainly have quitted, if my circum-
“ stances

“stances would have permitted me; as
 “it was, I shunned all occasions of con-
 “versation with him, while he fought
 “them as diligently with me.

“HE purposely particularized me .
 “before his wife, nor attempted to
 “hide from her this his blameable
 “partiality. I thought I saw the signs
 “of kindling jealousy visible in her
 “countenance. I then threw myself
 “at her feet, begged her excuse for my
 “involuntary crime, and expressed my
 “readiness to pursue any method she
 “could propose to rid her of those
 “apprehensions which it was visible she
 “entertained on my account. She ac-
 “knowledgeed my just proceeding and
 “It was agreed that I should be remo-
 “ved, as soon as possible from her
 H 3 “house,

“ house, yet still to be dependent on her
“ protection. But before any scheme of
“ this kind could be brought to bear,
“ Mr. Sands, coming one Sunday even-
“ ing, a little elevated with wine, into the
“ apartment where I was sitting alone,
“ behaved very indecently, and was pro-
“ ceeding even to the last extremity of
“ offering violence, when I shrieked
“ out so loudly as to bring the servants
“ to my assistance; on this he quitted me,
“ but before they left the apartment the
“ lady herself came in, and finding me
“ fainted away, her husband employed
“ in comforting me, and all things in
“ confusion, easily guessed at the cause;
“ and it was now judged highly im-
“ proper both by myself and my pa-
“ troness that I should remain with her
“ any longer.

“ I WAS

“ I WAS next placed with an acquaint-
 “ tance of hers, a French millener, with
 “ whom I had not long remained, before
 “ a knight called Sir Francis B——
 “ professed to court me for a wife, nor
 “ indeed, would he take any refusal from
 “ me ; so that at last I was obliged to be
 “ denied to him whenever he came to
 “ visit me, but his designs being far
 “ from honourable, he was not so re-
 “ pulsed : but caused a false message to
 “ be sent me, as from Mrs. Sands, at a
 “ particular house, where he himself
 “ waited to receive me and from whence,
 “ having detained me all the day, and
 “ found his vicious solicitations vain to
 “ shake my constancy and virtue, he
 “ hastened to the place, where you met
 “ him, ordering me to be bound, gag-
 “ ged and put into a coach, and sent

“ after him. But in that moment
“ Heaven was pleased to raise me up a
“ deliverer, else might I forlorn, aban-
“ doned, destitute, in the hands of vile
“ people, and in a strange place, at that
“ hour have been treated as a common
“ prostitute. What do I not owe to
“ gracious Providence, and to you, its
“ brave and generous instrument for
“ so happy an escape !”

WHILE she spoke this, her eyes, full of a melting tenderness, were alternately fixed on mine, then cast downwards upon the earth. Too well I understood, but durst not seem to be acquainted with their moving language: yet I most sincerely pitied the unfortunate maiden, and bore a part in those sorrows which I could not cure. For far from my heart
was

was the diabolical pleasure which some persons of both sexes seem so highly to enjoy, I mean that of giving pain ; and I endeavoured to sooth the lovely mourner, whilst I was obliged to seem ignorant of the cause of her grief.

By her desire I accompanied her to the house of the French millener, who now refused to receive her, saying she had lately become acquainted with her character, and “ would *barbour* no such people.” From thence I went with her to her married friend who desired to be excused seeing her any more, sending her word that she might return from whence she came. All this was shocking to one in her circumstances, and it was difficult to administer consolation : I advised her, however, to keep a chearful

spirit. "Fear not, my dear Miss An-
 "cram," said I, tenderly, "fear not but
 "Providence will succour you. It is not
 "long since I saw your worthy brother
 "in town, who came on purpose to seek
 "you. How would his heart be pierc-
 "ed at this relation; Yet droop not!
 "for his sake, for your own sake. I
 "will strain every nerve to do you
 "service."—"I return you my most
 "grateful acknowledgements," replied
 she; "To you I would not become a
 "burden: but my brother! . . . I heard
 "indeed that he was in town, a circum-
 "stance I forgot to notice. What of
 "him?"

I THEN related all that passed between
 us, and gave her also a summary of
 my own history from the time that I was
 unhappy

unhappy enough to wound him in Somersetshire, to the night in which I met her, so fortunately for her deliverance.

“ OH ! Clerimont,” said she “ what an
 “ evil destiny has hitherto pursued you :
 “ sure fate has now made its circle—
 “ Certainly there is, there must be hap-
 “ piness yet in store for you : for my
 “ own part, it is still a mystery to what I
 “ am reserved. To a permanent joy and
 “ felicity, I hope,” said I: “ Your friends
 “ may yet relent. They will, they must
 “ yield so far to your intreaties, if you
 “ address yourself to them, as not to
 “ sacrifice, to one she cannot love their
 “ dear, their only daughter.

“ Permit me then to see you proper-
 “ ly lodged with my friend in town,

“ whilst I undertake (unworthy solicitor
 “ as I am) to plead your cause with
 “ your brother, with whom I am now
 “ perfectly reconciled. Alas!” cried she,
 “ he never was your enemy, even when
 “ he underwent the severest pains from
 “ that unlucky wound which your hand
 “ ignorantly dealt him; but for me; oh!
 “ Mr. Clerimont, I fear I never shall
 “ be able again to shew myself to him or
 “ to my father, unless—unless impossi-
 “ bilities: but spare me farther speech
 “ upon this subject! Gladly,” said I;
 “ and if indeed some other happier
 “ lover—Ah! there,” cried she, “ there
 “ I am wounded: but forbear a while,
 “ and counsel me what is to be done in
 “ this exigence.”

I THEN

I THEN repeated my advice that she should return to my friend's, who was an acquaintance of Mr. Wilford's, and remain there for the present, till we could concert matters to re-establish her in the favour of her relations, or otherwise provide for her according to her wishes; and this was accordingly done to her satisfaction.

HERE I used frequently to visit her, and found her a most agreeable companion, except only that she would sometimes be too tender, and then I generally made use of innocent artifices, aptly to turn the course of the conversation. Yet, perceiving that this connexion unhappily served only to foster a growing passion, I began to be less frequent in my attendance. One evening, when Miss Ancram gently reproached

reproached me for this supposed remissness, and that in such a manner as she would have addressed a lover. "Alas! "Madam," said I, "my conduct has "not merited your displeasure; there is "nothing I do, in this or any other regard of yours, without a view to your "happiness."

SHE coloured extremely. "What then," said she, "is it necessary to my happiness that I should be tormented by the "world in general, and by you in particular, by *you* for whom I have ever "had such a tender regard; but such is "the return. . . Whatever it be" interrupted I, "that I may have done to "merit your regard I should be sorry to "prove to you a source of uneasiness" — "And yet" sighed she forth "you know,

“ know, for a certainty you are so”—
 “ How, Madam ?”—“ Ah cruel! she re-
 plied in a plaintive accent, “ of all man-
 “ kind, *can you* enquire.”—“ Alas too
 “ plainly, said I in a solemn tone “ do I
 “ perceive the drift of a discourse which
 “ I am bound not to hear”—“ Not to
 “ hear!” echoed the lady, “ No madam!
 “ not to hear, since I cannot, consistently
 “ with my honour, answer to my wish
 “ the person who delivers it. Repress, I
 “ conjure you, this growing inclination
 “ which to neither of us can work any
 “ thing but woe! Remember what you
 “ owe to your family, to your friends,
 “ and to your own happiness. Let me
 “ (once more I intreat you,) intercede
 “ with them to receive you. If not to
 “ comply with their desires, return at
 “ least to live under their hospitable
 “ roof,

“ roof, and fill again that respectable
“ station in their favour, and in the eye of
“ the world, which once you enjoyed.
“ Despise the man who can hear you ex-
“ press a partiality for him, without
“ making a suitable return to it — yes,
“ I conjure you to despise such an one,
“ though in so doing, I intreat you to
“ condemn myself — Excuse my plain
“ dealing. You are my friend, though
“ not my mistress; your happiness is at
“ stake, and it were injurious to trifle
“ with you. Forego your misguided incli-
“ nations, your misplaced resolutions; in
“ a word, forego your love, since it can ne-
“ ver promote your felicity.” — “ And is
“ it thus,” cried Miss Ancram, “ inhu-
“ man! Is it thus that I am treated,
“ What love have I troubled you with,
“ what passion have I avowed? Know,
“ Sir,

“ Sir, I have a spirit.”—“ A noble one
 “ I believe. Exert it, Madam : I admire
 “ where it has slept. *What love, what*
 “ *passion have you declared?* If not in
 “ exprefs terms, yet in broken sighs, in
 “ signs more expreffive than words have
 “ you made known your wifhes. And
 “ could you be ignorant that you had fo
 “ done? Oh! ftrange effects of blind
 “ paffion! Oh! amazing forgetfulness of
 “ yourfelf!”

Now no longer able to refrain her
 anger: “ Barbarous man,” exclaimed
 ſhe, “ And is it becauſe my tender
 “ heart confeſſed a woman’s weakneſs,
 “ that I am thus uſed; or am I be-
 “ come ſo deſpicable in your eyes, only
 “ becauſe I have been obliged to you?
 “ Oh! grief and ſhame! but here do I
 “ renounce”

“renounce” And so saying, she bursted forth into a flood of tears ; nor stayed I to comfort her, as well knowing this was no time to pour balm into the wound I had so deeply searched.

THE next day I sent the unhappy lady a letter, couched in terms more tender than my late discourse had been, and apologizing for my conduct by exposing the true motive of it, which was no other than to wean her from such an hopeless passion as had already caused her so much uneasiness, and had stood confessed in her every word and action. My proceedings had the desired effect : the next time I saw Miss Ancram, she appeared an altered person ; she thanked me heartily for the part I had assumed, and blushed for that which she herself had

had put on. I saw with pleasure the contest maintained between that noble spirit which my breath had awakened in her breast and her softer inclinations. Reason every day gained an ascendancy over her passions, and I was just preparing to write to her friends on her behalf, when I was much astonished at receiving a letter from Somersetshire, the contents of which were as follow :

TO MR. CLERIMONT.

SIR,

“ YOUR extraordinary conduct, with
 “ regard to my daughter, has equally in-
 “ censed me and her brother, with whom
 “ you have acted the part of a complete
 “ hypocrite. He is at present much in-
 “ disposed; but, I hope, will soon be able
 “ to wait on you in town, and one
 “ way

“ way or other call you to an account
 “ for your behaviour. I suppose, by this
 “ time, there remains but one method for
 “ you to repair the injury done us. If
 “ it be so, you must absolutely take it,
 “ without making any previous condi-
 “ tions or expect the deserved conse-
 “ quences of your base behaviour to her
 “ and to the injured

CHARLES ANCRAM.

I SHEWED this letter to the young lady
 who now found herself involved in a
 fresh perplexity. We easily perceived
 that some busy person must have heard
 the story of our adventure, and adding
 to it, had thus abused the ear of the old
 gentleman; and we both wrote by the
 very next post, in the strongest terms to
 undeceive him. I was, however, very
 uneasy

uneasy about this matter, and in a short time I found still greater cause.

HUMPHREYS having brought me word one day, that he had heard of Miss Harwood's being in town, I posted with all the eagerness of an expecting lover to visit her; but was told she was not at home. I went again and again, but the same denial was still repeated; and instead of being received by her aunt with her accustomed cordiality, neither could I get access to her.

HOWEVER, after several disappointments, Mrs. Waters the sister of Miss Davenant, whom, as it seemed, they had relieved and taken into the house in quality of a companion, opened the door to me. She recollected me, and told me the ladies

ladies were both at home, but had given strict orders to be denied to me.

ASTONISHED and confounded, I stood a while mute, and incapable of urging my request: but at last, I earnestly intreated she would let Miss Harwood know I was there, and request to be informed for what offence I was thus to be banished from her presence. Returning, she brought me word that the young lady presented her compliments to Mr. Clerimont, but was so busy she could not see him; promising, however, to send him a note the next day, informing him of the engagements which she had, and probably should have for a long time on her hands to prevent her from seeing him in person. Thus answered, I returned, very much chagrined, and passed,

as

as may well be imagined, a very restless night. In the morning Mr. Wilford called upon me, to ask me to the earl of P——'s levée; but I was too much disconcerted to attend there, and so excused myself as well as I was able: he then began to railly me upon a report which, he said, passed current, of my having paid my addressee to Miss Ancram. This was indeed very ill-timed: I began to look serious upon the matter, and, in the end, gave him some hints of the injury both she and I were likely to sustain by this report. The officer, though he was generally fond of a jest, was yet always ready to sacrifice it, when disagreeable to his friend: he condoled with me on this affair, as far as I made it known to him, and advised me by all means, if I could, to persuade Miss Ancram's return to her friends

friends with all possible expedition ;“ For”
 argued he “ while that lady remains
 “ in London, and in lodgings likewise
 “ of your providing, all that you can say
 “ or do will never suffice to exculpate
 “ you with *her* friends, or to persuade
 “ *your own*, that you are still constant in
 “ your attachment to Miss Harwood,
 “ on whose affections, as you say, so
 “ much of your happiness depends.”

I WAS fully sensible of the justice of this
 observation, and resolved to use all my
 influence in persuading Miss Ancram to
 return, as soon as I should have seen
 what effect her letter and mine had pro-
 duced with her father and brother.

WHEN Mr. Wilford had left me I fell
 into so deep a reverie, that I remained
 for

for a long while, as it were, insensible to every thing passing around me. Whilst I sat thus ; thought succeeding thought, I lost myself in a confused groupe of ideas, and all external objects being shut out, I fell into a kind of extacy or waking dream. Then fancy presented to my view, among other airy shapes, a ship upon a troubled sea, wherein, methought, was embarked every person in the world of whom I had any knowledge. The foamy billows were perpetually breaking upon her labouring side ; gulphs and quicksands were gaping to devour her ; rocks and shelves threatening every moment to dash her to pieces. At the helm appeared my lovely mistress, arrayed like an angel in shining white. All eyes were fixed on her ; but she regarded only the rudder of the vessel, which she play-

ed to and fro with amazing swiftness; whilst, one moment, the masts were buried in the clouds, the next, the groaning hull was precipitated into the yawning and voracious deep beneath. And now, as every hope seemed lost, and the over-laboured ship was plunging on a pointed rock, amidst the roar of thunders, and the glare of livid lightnings, suddenly I was transported to her highest mast; from whence, while, trembling with horror, I viewed the dangers that encompassed me, a voice like that of my father issued from the hollow caverns of the surrounding cliffs, crying, "health, " safety and deliverance!" on which the seas were smoothed, the clouds dispersed, and we were suddenly landed on a beautiful shore, adorned with all the beauties of the infant spring, and enriched

ed with all the ripening treasures of autumn. Here, as my Leonora advanced, a troop of young virgins met her, playing so melodiously on sweet-toned instruments, as quite ravished my senses.

AT this instant, I felt a sudden shock; and all the delightful scene vanished; — when, looking up, I saw Humphreys standing at my elbow; who exclaimed, “He is awakened at last, I believe! God
“forgive me! Sure, I thought he was
“dead, *somnum mortis death and*
“*sleep are cousins*, as the old proverb says,
“and yet methinks he could not be
“asleep neither; for his eyes were wide
“open. . . . Sir, here is a letter for you.”
—“Well give it me,” said I, “somewhat
“peevishly, what a parade have you been
“making!” “Marry! and with reason, I

“ think” replied Nathan ; “ but there is
 “ no speaking to you of late,” and then,
 pausing, “ This is not kind of you, Mr.
 “ Clerimont ; this behaviour is not
 “ friendly. You know I have always
 “ had your welfare at heart ; but *love is*
 “ *not to be bought.*”

As he spoke this, he sighed, and I was
 sorry I had expressed myself so sharply
 to him. “ Bear with me, my friend,”
 said I, (opening the letter) “ for I have
 “ many sorrows, and this, I fear, comes
 “ but to multiply them.” “ Now, God
 “ forbid !” exclaimed the good-natured
 Nathan.

I EXAMINED my billet, and was sur-
 prized to find it contained the following
 words :

To

TO MR. CLERIMONT.

“ SIR,

“ Miss Harwood, who is just now
“ set out for the country, desired me to
“ inform you that it was entirely incon-
“ venient for her to see you, when you
“ were so obliging as to call at her aunt's;
“ but really she has been so much hur-
“ ried in preparations for her wedding,
“ which alone occasioned her tour to
“ town, that she could not spare an hour.
“ When that is over, it is probable, she
“ says, she may see you and wish you
“ joy of yours with Miss Ancram.

“ Thus much for my niece. . . . In my
“ own name I now reproach you for
“ breach of promise to *her*, and for hy-
“ pocrify to others. This done, I have

“ only to add, that you have lost an
 “ heart so tender and so valuable, as you
 “ will never be able to match. Shame
 “ and remorse, poverty and anguish will
 “ pursue you; and you will repent, it is
 “ when too late, your unworthy treat-
 “ ment of a niece of

A. HARWOOD.

WHEN I had read this letter, I fell in-
 to such agonies as made Humphreys
 tremble even for my life. After he had,
 with much difficulty, brought me to my
 senses, “ What,” said I, “ married!”—
 “ lost for ever!” Oh Heavens! and do
 “ I still survive these reiterated shocks
 “ of fortune?”—I was just then about to
 snatch my sword, and should certainly at
 that instant have plunged it into my bo-
 som, and, in an agony of passion, have put
 an end to my life, had not Humphreys
 timely

timely prevented me, and conveyed the weapon away from me.

HOWEVER, I locked myself up into my chamber, nor was seen all that evening. At night, I threw my tortured body on my wretched couch, where I wasted the tedious hours, and counted the melancholy clock; no balmy slumbers weighed my eyelids down; but one disagreeable reflexion succeeding to another, kept me still awake. At last I arose more weary than I had lain down, and unable to determine what plan I should follow in my future life.

WHILST I was thus cruelly distressed, I received a letter from Miss Ancram, importing that she would be glad to

Speak with me upon business of importance.

DISORDERED as I was, I went with the messenger, and found her busied in perusing some letters she had just received. One of these was from her father, in answer to that which she had written to him. Therein he desired to know from what proofs he must be expected to draw the arguments of her innocence; assuring her that, if it could be made appear, he would with joy receive her, and, far from insisting on her joining hands with any particular person, would leave her in that respect entirely to her own discretion. But he expressed, at the same time, the great reasons which he had to doubt of the truth of her assertion; mentioning the affair of Mrs. Sands, and
many

many other such matters, (which, he said, all tended to prove her evil inclinations) as familiarly as if he had been present on the spot. All this plainly shewed that he must have some correspondent in town, who had informed him of what had passed, with the most aggravating circumstances.

In conclusion, Mr. Ancram told his daughter, that till she could more fully attest her innocence, he could not think of receiving her; but whenever that was effected, it would give him a sensible pleasure: meanwhile, he desired she would prepare herself for the reception of a visiter, who would call on her to enquire into these matters:—and, accordingly, a livery-servant had been at her lodgings, and left word there, that a lady

from her father's would attend her that afternoon, whom she naturally supposed to be the person she was apprized of.

THUS circumstanced, Miss Ancram desired my advice how to proceed. I first related to her the difficulties in which I had already involved myself, with regard to this unlucky affair, and then counselled her, by all means, to deal ingenuously with the person who should come to examine into the business. However, I declined being present at the conference, which I judged would produce me nothing but fresh uneasiness; nor did I imagine my attendance would any ways benefit, but on the contrary, rather injure the cause I meant to support.

I THEREFORE left her, in a desponding situation, and returned home, where
I found

I found Humphreys entertaining Mr. Deval, who had waited to see me almost ever since I had been gone out. — This man to whom (as I have already intimated) I was indebted, took upon him to reproach me for what he termed my misconduct and imprudence. And this produced such warm answers from me, at that critical juncture, as were by no means pleasing to the tradesman; so that he began to throw out some menaces, which, indeed, were sufficient to alarm me.

“ Look you, Mr. Clerimont,” said he, “ you know what pecuniary obligations there are between us. You know also that I *stood in the gap* with regard to your other creditors, and pointed out to you the means where-

“ by to have acquired a handsome fortune; but you have pursued other measures, and therefore must even finish your business as you have begun it. You know I have been patient for a long time; and indeed I should never have thought of molesting you, had I seen you taking the ready method to pay me. But, as things now stand, it cannot be expected that I should suffer for your imprudence. If, therefore, I do not find my demands answered within these seven days, I shall proceed in such a manner as is usual in such cases.”

HERE Mr. Deval finished his speech and departed, leaving me to my private meditations, which grew every hour more and more insupportable.

WILFORD

WILFORD soon after entered, to deliver me from them. Him I now made acquainted with what had passed; and, not caring to trust him by halves, laid all my circumstances fairly open before him.

“ Well, as to your debts, a salve might perhaps be found for that sore,” said he, “ if you would be ruled for me; but as to your lost love, time, absence and the strength of your superior reason (as well you know) can alone be supposed to heal that wound. But attend now to what I have to propose.

“ The earl of P——, whom I have long wearied with addresses in your behalf, has this day informed me that he can accommodate you with a place of profit and advantage, if you are willing to go abroad to the colonies: this he was not forward to offer, as

“ doubting

“doubting whether you would chuse
 “to accept it; but by my rigid solici-
 “tations I wrung it from him. Now,
 “were I situated as you are, I think I
 “should chuse to embrace the proposal.
 “ I wait your answer.”

AFTER a pause: “It is resolved”
 said I, “my dear friend, I am ever ob-
 “liged to you for your kind concern;
 “and will accept the offer of his lord-
 “ship. Yes, I will leave my native
 “country, where I have never yet expe-
 “rienced, nor am ever likely to expe-
 “rience any solid happiness. But what
 “of my creditors? How are they to be
 “satisfied if I withdraw myself?”

“LEAVE that to me,” returned the
 officer, “Such an advance may be ob-
 “tained

"tained upon your salary, as will serve
 "to discharge their demands. Come,
 "courage, my friend! you may still
 "live to see many days of prosperity.
 "Proceed but with the same honesty of
 "intention and uprightness of heart that
 "has hitherto marked your conduct,
 "and I doubt not but you will always
 "find friendship and assistance where-
 "ever Fortune may fix you. To-morrow
 "we must wait upon the earl, about this
 "matter: I would therefore have you
 "prepare yourself in the morning, that
 "you may be ready by the time I call
 "upon you."

A FAINT gleam of hope now once
 more dawned upon my troubled soul:
 It seemed, indeed, as if I had promised
 myself, by shifting my place, to leave my
 sorrows

sorrows behind me. I thought myself, however, certain that I could no where meet with more vexation than I had already experienced in England, where there was none whom I regretted leaving, but my love and my friend.

“ AH, Leonora,” I would exclaim,
 “ didst thou but know what a faithful
 “ youth thou hast ruined, surely it
 “ would pierce thy heart with sorrow.
 “ Some vile wretch has traduced me to
 “ thee: some fiend that shuns the light
 “ has destroyed my peace. Oh! when
 “ hereafter this whole affair shall be un-
 “ ravelled, if I read thy heart aright,
 “ what, unhappy fair-one! will be
 “ thy feelings! For me, I must betake
 “ myself to a foreign shore, there to seek
 “ that peace which has so cruelly shun-
 ned

“ ned me at home. If not there, then
 “ in the grave alone must I find peace,
 “ nor know any rest until I sink in the
 “ oblivion of death.”

WITH Wilford I waited on his lordship. “ So, Mr. Clerimont,” said he, “ we shall at last be able to provide for you, if indeed you will accept of our provision.” He then proceeded to inform me of the nature of the place, its profits and emoluments, which amounted to near two hundred pounds *per annum*. I expressed my willingness, to accept the propofal, and thanked the earl as my patron and benefactor.

WILFORD then proceeded to open the nature of my embarassments to him, and I received assurances that the nobleman would

would cause such a sum to be advanced, before I proceeded on my voyage, as might serve to clear me in England. A day was then fixed upon for my departure to the ship, which lay at Gravesend, and I left his lordship, in a more chearful humour than I had approached him.

I was resolved, yet once more to try the force of persuasions, if it were not too late, upon my Leonora. I called again at her aunt's, and was again refused admittance. This I bore as I might, and not so repulsed, I went home, and penned a most pathetic letter to her niece in the country, being resolved to wait the event of it, before I gave myself any farther thoughts about my foreign expedition.

MEANWHILE,

MEANWHILE, I paid another visit to Miss Ancram. She informed me that the expected lady had called upon her, who was, to her surprize, no other as she had since learned, than Miss Davenant. That malicious creature had taken a diabolical pleasure (under the notion of an unknown friend) in tormenting her, and, (as the distressed beauty supposed) had presented the worst picture of her that was possible to her friends in the country.

THE moment I heard Miss Davenant's name mentioned, I doubted not but all my misfortunes, and those of this lady had taken their rise from her devilish machinations; and I had afterwards sufficient cause to be confirmed in my opinion.

I WAS

I was now sorry that I had dispatched letter, into Somersetshire, without having been previously acquainted with this circumstance, the knowledge of which, I flattered myself, might have proved of singular service to me in my defence. But this regret came too late; and all that remained now was to make what little use I could of the intimation.

Returning, late in the evening, from Miss Ancram's whom I had acquainted with the thoughts I entertained of going abroad, I was attacked in one of the most lonesome streets of Westminster by two men armed with cutlasses: I had no other weapon but my stick, so that it was not long before they laid me flat on the pavement with a cut on the head, and, in all probability, would soon have given

given me a passport to the other world, but that some gentlemen passing by prevented them; yet had they not attempted to rob me of any thing. My friend Wilford chanced to come up, just as the strangers were raising me. He caused me first to be carried to a surgeon's, and afterwards to my own lodging, where he was perpetually attending me as regularly as the physician.

My wound, though not dangerous, proved yet very troublesome, and happened so as to delay my departure in the ship I at first proposed to take my passage in: I was therefore obliged to wait for the next vessel, which was to sail within three weeks. From the circumstances of the affair above mentioned, I could not help thinking I owed it to
the

the plan of some secret enemy; and my suspicions fell upon Miss Davenant; Wilford's did so too: but notwithstanding all the enquiries we could make into the matter, we still remained in the dark and were left merely to our own conjectures.

My creditors had not failed to attend me during this interval; but they were referred to the earl of P——, who easily satisfied them and silenced their clamours. At last, the time appointed arriving I took an affectionate leave of Wilford and poor Humphreys, the latter of whom shed tears like a child, at parting from me, I waited on his lordship, and having received his final instructions, proceeded in a post-chaise to Gravesend.

BEING

BEING furnished with necessaries for the voyage, I repaired to the rendezvous of the officers, and was introduced to the captain, who received me with great politeness. He was a well-tempered, chearful man, and one in whose society I promised myself much pleasure during the voyage ; with him I repaired, the next day, on board the vessel, which, in a few hours, set sail with a fair wind for the Downs.

AND now I was as one entering into another world. Every thing was strange around me. At some times, my heart beat thick with hopes and fears and nameless expectations from my change of situation. I could almost have imagined that every breeze, carried away some of my cares upon its pinions ; yet
left

left behind a fluttering anxiety unpleasing and unaccountable. At others, I sunk into a stupid despondency.

BUT as we drew towards the opening of the channel, the surges heightened, and the wind rose furious; then first I beheld that war of elements so ungrateful to those who tempt the deep; then did the blasts howl terrible through the cracking cordage: then did

“Th’ ambitious ocean foam, and rage, and swell
 “To be exalted with the threat’ning clouds!

while the vessel heaved with such dismal throes, as if she laboured with destruction. A death-like sickness seized my troubled breast, and every hollow
 murmurs

murmurs of the winds was echoed by a sigh from me.

DISTURBED as I was in body and mind, I could almost have precepitated myself into the waves that boiled around us; but that a conscious shame restrained me from outrageous actions. I have often reflected when I have since beheld the like wild working of the elements unmoved, how much the disposition of the mind has power to alter the appearances of external objects, to make them swell with enchanting pleasure, or teem with unspeakable horror.

At length we anchored at Deal, where we were to go on shore for the last time: — And now I stood as on the verge and utmost boundary of the world; for such, in effect, to me it appeared. I could not

with to experience again what I had passed through, yet I sighed to look forward. My mind was in a state of suspense, consequently in a state of perpetual uneasiness.

BUT while we were beating up against contrary winds, a rich fleet of India-men had arrived in the river, with whose officers and passengers our captain said we should have an opportunity of entertaining ourselves before yet we bade adieu to England.

WHEN I was introduced to some of them, I observed with great attention the different passions and affections which were generally painted in the countenances of our companions, and those of our newly arrived countrymen; the one glowing

glowing with all the satisfaction which arises from toils and dangers past, and fame or wealth acquired; and the other exhibiting all the various changes and turbid emotions of expectation, figured in alternate hopes and fears.

AND now the last night arrived in which I was to have beheld my native country; when our captain and several of his officers met some of those belonging to the India-fleet, in order to spend the evening together, and I was to be of the party.

THE whole company were in great expectation of a gentleman's joining them, of the name of Charlton, whom the last ships had brought over from India, and who was said lately to have

made his fortune in that country, of whom several of them began relating some strange stories. At last the expected guest entered. He was an elderly gentleman of a pleasing aspect, and appeared to be about fifty; he was very richly dressed, and seemed to command much respect from those around him. On his entrance he took his seat directly opposite to me. When I first saw him, I imagined I recollected some traces of his features: — when he fixed his eyes upon me, mine were drawn towards him by a sort of irresistible attraction: — when he spoke his every accent went thrilling to my heart: nor could he attend to the discourse of his friends for regarding me: At length: “ Pardon
“ me gentlemen,” said he; “ but that
“ youth so much resembles what I should
“ conceive

“ conceive of the appearance of a son
 “ whom I once had, (Heaven only knows
 “ if now he lives) that he engrosses all
 “ my attention.” And so saying, he
 turned aside to wipe his eyes.

NATURE, powerful Nature, now urged
 so strongly within me, that I could con-
 tain no longer; I cried aloud: “ Yes,
 “ it is, it must be my father!” and over-
 powered with the agitations of my soul,
 as I rose to embrace him, I fell senseless
 on the floor. When I revived, I found
 myself in his arms: “ My dear child,
 “ do I again behold thee?” — A mutual
 silence for a while ensued; till at last,
 recovering myself a little, — “ Oh! my
 “ dear parent,” said I, “ we thought you
 “ dead. Where, for Heaven’s sake, have
 “ you been all this time? And how have

“ you escaped the raging seas which we
 “ were told had long since swallowed
 “ you ? ” — “ The tale,” replied he, “ is
 “ too long to tell ; neither the time nor
 “ place admit of it at present ; but, my
 “ dear child, whither art thou going,
 “ or where hast thou been, that thou art
 “ joined with this naval company ? ” —
 “ I was on the point,” replied I, “ of
 “ leaving England but now ” — “ Ay
 “ now you shall not need to go, I hope
 “ my boy If gain was what you
 “ fought, I have gold enough for me
 “ and you ; but let us now drop this
 “ subject. Tell me what friends of ours
 “ are living.” This question occasioned a
 recapitulation of many events when
 my father was surprized to hear of
 the behaviour of my cousin to me.
 “ Well,” said he ; “ I am glad I know
 “ so

“ so much of him ; we may do without
 “ him, and we shall be less connected with
 “ him in future ; but none who have been
 “ friendly to you, shall pass unnoticed
 “ by your father.”

As soon as the company broke up, I went with my new-found parent to the lodging he had taken at Deal ; where I made him acquainted with the various accidents that had happened to me since he left me in my cousin's charge, till that time ; and exculpated myself from the crimes I had been accused of. In return for which, at my request, he related to me the most remarkable of his adventures in the eastern world.

“ AFTER we left England,” said my father, “ we proceeded without any ac-
 K 4 “ cident,

“cident, till we arrived off the Malabar
“coast, when the monsoons not being
“quite blown over a most violent storm
“arose, which, while we were endeavouring
“to make to the harbour of our
“destination, drove us on shore upon the
“opposite coast; in consequence of
“which accident, many of our men were
“lost, and our ship and cargo became
“the prey of the Malaysians; among
“those who survived I was made a
“prisoner, and was so strictly kept that
“it was equally impossible for me either
“to escape or to send information to
“any of my countrymen where I was;
“which occasioned my friends in England
“to suppose that I had perished
“by shipwreck. The Nabob of Bengal
“had before this time taken up arms
“against the English; general Clive had
“raised

“ raised his troops, in our defence, and
 “ the savage prince was marching for-
 “ ward to meet him, desolating all
 “ the fertile country, as he passed along.
 “ An officer of his detained me and
 “ several other prisoners till the uncer-
 “ tain event of the war should be known,
 “ in one of their principal towns, which
 “ was fortified after the Indian man-
 “ ner.

“ WHILST I remained here I saw
 “ many extraordinary things, and some-
 “ times conversed with their Bramins
 “ whom they look upon as the pious
 “ and immediate servants of their god:
 “ I beheld also the Parses and Guebres,
 “ worshippers of the sacred fire, and
 “ saw many rich temples of idolatrous
 “ superstition.”

“ AMONG my fellow-captives was
 “ the lady of an English settler of for-
 “ tune, whose husband lost his life in
 “ the unfortunate affair of Calcutta; it
 “ pleased her to cast a favourable eye upon
 “ me, and I was no less charmed with
 “ her good sense and elegant behaviour.
 “ We entered into strict bonds of amity
 “ while we were in the hands of the
 “ Indians, and we were not forgetful of
 “ each other when we recovered our
 “ liberty.

“ DURING this interval, a battle was
 “ fought in which the English obtained
 “ a signal victory and Meer Jaffier was
 “ promoted to the Subahship. Town
 “ after town surrendered to his arms;
 “ and, in consequence of this event, we
 “ were set at liberty by our countrymen.

“ As

“ As soon as I obtained my freedom,
 “ and the wars were ended, I made it my
 “ business to enquire out my brother in
 “ the kingdom of Bengal ; but to my
 “ great grief, found that he died a few
 “ days before my arrival in India, leav-
 “ ing indeed a will in my favour, but in
 “ vain ; the soldiers of the former Subah
 “ having seized upon his estates and pil-
 “ laged all his effects.

“ As war makes good no repairs, I
 “ could recover nothing ; meanwhile my
 “ late female fellow-sufferer had set out
 “ for Calcutta on a similar errand, to
 “ endeavour at healing her ruined for-
 “ tunes, promising however to let me
 “ know how she should succeed.

“ For my own part, I was now glad
 “ to put up with the place of a clerk in
 “ one of the company’s factories for pre-
 “ sent subsistence, and continued two
 “ years in that office, during which time
 “ I wrote three letters to my cousin
 “ in England, and inclosed others to
 “ you also; but receiving no answer,
 “ and hearing that your kinsman had
 “ retired from his old habitation, I de-
 “ spaired of getting any intelligence of
 “ either.

“ At this time the lady I mentioned
 “ returned from Calcutta with better
 “ success than I had experienced in my
 “ affairs. She was not altered, but still
 “ professed the same regard for me as
 “ before; I was therefore encouraged
 “ to address her as a wife, and in a short
 “ time

“ time our hands were joined. By the
“ help of her fortune, I became a mer-
“ chant; and now, as I found myself like-
“ ly to prosper in the world, began to
“ grow more solicitous than ever about
“ you; but all the intelligence I could
“ get concerning your affairs, from those
“ who pretended to have any knowledge
“ of them, was that you had become an
“ abandoned profligate, and a murderer;
“ and soon after I heard you were shot
“ in attempting a robbery. This was a
“ sorrowful hearing for me; but I was
“ constrained to comfort myself as well
“ as I could; not caring as much as my
“ heart yearned for you after this infor-
“ mation, ever to mention your name
“ or fate in the hearing of your step-
“ mother.

“ My

“ My wife had a brother, who died
 “ possessed of large fortunes in the East-
 “ Indies, and I succeeded to all his
 “ estates, on the condition of adding
 “ to my surname, that of the family,
 “ which was Charlton, the same that
 “ now I bear, and this, no doubt, was
 “ the chief reason why I have been so little
 “ heard of in England since my depar-
 “ ture, though my dealings there have
 “ been very extensive.

“ To conclude, I lived in the Indies,
 “ prosperous, rich, and happy in every
 “ thing but the want of a child to in-
 “ herit my fortune, till it pleased Hea-
 “ ven, about eight months since, to take
 “ away my wife. On her death, which
 “ I most sincerely lamented, and ever
 “ shall lament, I resolved to sell off my
 “ estates

“ estates and effects abroad, and once
 “ more revisit my native country, in order
 “ to know for a certainty if my friends
 “ were totally lost to me or not. Happy
 “ was it, my dear son, that thus I have
 “ providentially met you! You shall to-
 “ morrow give orders for disembarking
 “ your things, and with me return to
 “ London, where you shall set yourself
 “ above the proudest of your enemies,
 “ and where the means shall not be
 “ wanting to clear you from any false
 “ accusations, wherewith you have been
 “ aspersed.”

“ My father, and my friend,” said I,
 “ what words can express my joy, my
 “ gratitude! But alas! there is one
 “ wound, which I fear even you cannot
 “ cure . . . my love!” — “Chear up, my
 “ Harry!”

“ Harry !” replied my father ; “ if
“ she be not married, even she shall be
“ restored to your arms ; if she be, I
“ can only then remind you how obe-
“ diently we ought all to submit our-
“ selves to the will of Heaven, that,
“ doubtless, orders all things for the
“ best.” I answered only with a sigh,
and we parted each retiring to seek
the necessary repose.

IN the morning my chests were order-
ed on shore, and we took leave of the
captain, whose passenger I was to have
been, who weighed anchor, and with a
fair wind, set sail in our sight for Ame-
rica, whither I was by this time well
enough pleased that I had not proceeded
with him.

THIS

THIS day was spent in many necessary preparations, and the next we took a post chaise for London, where we arrived safe the next evening, to the no small surprise of my friend Humphreys, whom I sent for to our inn, and made acquainted with my unexpected good fortune.

“ God forgive me,” cried he, “ Mr. Charlton! Mr. Clerimont! Gentlemen! . . . What a change is here! . . .

“ *Post nubila Phæbus. After a storm comes a calm. . . .* Mercy on us! who could have dreamed of this? And, besides, I had forgot: I have *my* wonders too. Miracles will never cease. After all Mr. Ancram’s anger, his son has been at your lodgings, to enquire for you, exclaiming that you have been abused. Miss Davenant, it

“ seems,

“ seems, is dying; she has confessed her
 “ wicked schemes against you, and,
 “ among the rest, she owns that she hired
 “ those men to assassinate you, who attack-
 “ ed you in Westminster. Well, Hea-
 “ ven forgive her! but she has been a
 “ sad slut, that’s the truth of it!”

I was really surprized at this informa-
 tion, and desired to know where I might
 find young Ancram, to whom I instant-
 ly repaired.

He was astonished beyond measure, to
 see me thus unexpectedly returned, and
 his wonder was greatly heightened when
 I informed him of what had happened
 to meat Deal, and of my new found pa-
 rent. “ Oh! my friend!” said he, “ for-
 “ give me that, imposed upon by that -
 “ arch

“ arch deceiver, Miss Davenant, I have
 “ dared to suspect you of so base an ac-
 “ tion as that of seducing my sister.
 “ The dear girl is preparing to return
 “ with me to her father; how willingly
 “ could I match her with you, but that
 “ I know your affections are elsewhere
 “ engaged, and fixed upon a more de-
 “ serving object !” When I informed
 him on what terms I stood with Leo-
 nora; “ Hasten then,” cried he, “ if
 “ it be so, to the dying Miss Davenant.
 “ She will now (doubtless) purchase
 “ your forgiveness by giving such proofs
 “ of her machinations, and of your in-
 “ nocence under her hand, as cannot
 “ fail of reconciling you to Miss Har-
 “ wood, who, I can assure you, is not at
 “ present likely to be married to her
 “ cousin. That good-natured, constant
 “ young

“ young gentleman having fought him-
 “ self out another mate, just as the
 “ match was going to be concluded.”

“ OH! joyful hearing,” said I, “ let
 “ us go this minute, and see this aban-
 “ doned one.” He consented, and we
 set out directly for Miss Davenant’s,
 whom we found in the height of a fever,
 occasioned by a surfeit. She seemed to
 experience great agonies of body and
 mind; but knew us perfectly well;
 though she testified great amazement at
 seeing me returned.

“ COME near once more, Mr. An-
 “ cram,” said she in a feeble voice, “ and
 “ you, highly injured youth, come near;
 “ and tell me you forgive me before I
 “ die.” “ Miss Davenant,” I replied,
 “ I heartily

“ I heartily pity your situation ; but if
 “ your repentance be sincere, I doubt
 “ not that you will endeavour all in
 “ your power to amend what you have
 “ done amiss, and to set to rights such
 “ of my affairs as you have thrown into
 “ confusion. To this end,” continued
 I, taking out my pencil, and writing
 on a slip of paper a brief justification
 of myself from her slanders; “ I suppose
 “ you will not scruple to sign your
 “ name to this little testimony which,
 “ you will see, contains nothing but
 “ truth, and which I must use in busi-
 “ nefs of dear import.”

SHE took it, perused, and subscribed
 it instantly, saying, “ Is there yet any
 “ farther reparation that I can make
 “ you while I live for the injuries I
 “ did,

“ did, and intended to do you? Oh!
 “ blessed be Providence that you are
 “ yet alive to grant me remission. If
 “ my wicked charge had been effectual-
 “ ly obeyed, then had you been removed,
 “ and I must have passed unpardoned:
 “ but say, is there any thing else?”—
 “ Nothing, Madam; and may Heaven
 “ and every mortal whom you have in-
 “ jured forgive you as heartily as I do.
 “ So let me I thrive and prosper, as here
 “ I vow to blot every injury of yours to
 “ me, (as far as human Nature can)
 “ from my remembrance; and may that
 “ Power whom now (though late) you
 “ seek, calm your troubled spirits, and
 “ restore to you that peace which alone
 “ can sweeten your last moments, and
 “ disarm Death of his terrors.”

I ADDED

I ADDED no more; for strong emotions labouring in her breast made her agonies inconceivable. I hastened from this scene of horror, and returned to my father, to whom I introduced Mr. Ancram.

WE all then determined that my father should write down to B——l, and make his proposals to Mr. Harwood in my behalf, inclosing this paper signed by the dying Miss Davenant: but even while we were debating on this matter, we were informed by Mr. Humphreys, that gentleman was come to town with his son, to see his marriage celebrated with his new mistress, and that my Leonora was also of the company.

NOTHING

Nothing could have happened more *a-propos*. My father resolved the very next day to go with me to wait upon the family. Previous to this, Mr. Ancram took care to get Miss Davenant's testimony (inclosed in my billet) delivered into the hands of my beloved one.

I now experienced a joyful reverse of fortune: every thing declared for me. Leonora was softened, and pitied my distress; I threw myself at her feet and vowed not to rise from thence till she had promised to become mine. She yielded, and I was happy. — Meanwhile my indulgent parent prevailed on Mr. Harwood to suffer his niece to match herself with me, now his son was provided for from another quarter, and on the eve of being blest with a very rich wife,

riage, the only idea he entertained of an happy one.

WHILST all things were thus verging towards happiness, I was surprized to meet in one of the public walks of the park, my former acquaintance who had headed the outlaws, leading along his wife richly dressed.

HE spoke to me immediately, but perceiving me to be rather shy of his compliment “ You need not be afraid “ to know me, Mr. Clerimont,” said he, “ for henceforward my behaviour “ will be such as need not disgrace any “ man. I own, however, the stain cast “ upon my character has been great; “ but now I am endeavouring to wipe “ it off. You wonder, no doubt, to

“ see me thus walking publicly in the
“ face of day. I am to inform you
“ that I was sentenced to be banished
“ to the colonies, whither accordingly I
“ went; but had not stayed there long
“ before I so far gained the confidence
“ of some merchants as to be by them
“ intrusted as a pilot with the navigation
“ of a vessel, which was lost on a ledge
“ of rocks in the western ocean; though
“ this accident happened not through any
“ fault of mine, yet the owners insisted
“ on my being sent over to England in
“ irons, where I was tried for the
“ offence and acquitted; but imme-
“ diately after seized for returning from
“ abroad before the expiration of my se-
“ ven years.”

“ BUT

“ BUT, in the mean time, my dear
 “ Sally had found at home a powerful
 “ relation and protector in the person of
 “ a near kinsman, who was arrived at
 “ the honour of a baronet, together with
 “ the possession of a plentiful estate.”

“ IT appearing in court that my re-
 “ turn was involuntary, my life was pre-
 “ served, and the baronet whom I men-
 “ tioned procured also my pardon:
 “ since that time I have professed my
 “ own business, in which, under patro-
 “ nage of my sally's kinsman, I have
 “ succeeded very well; and (as wealth
 “ is the chief object of the world's
 “ respect) I want not for the counte-
 “ nance of many; while my patron
 “ says he enjoys an unspeakable pleasure
 “ in thus recalling to virtue and the

“ paths of order, one, whom he is pleased to say, may prove an useful member of society.

“ THE baronet, to whose estate and title my kinsman succeeded, was no other than that very Sir Francis B——, with some of whose virtues I made you formerly acquainted, and who fell in a quarrel with a gentleman of Gloucestershire, occasioned by his having violated his daughter, an unhappy insane young lady. To this purpose he made use of various arts, often disguising himself as a poor traveller, and often appearing as a wandering fugitive from town. He was certainly the vilest of men.” — “ I know enough of him,” replied I; “ but having had only a slight view of
“ his

" his person, I should be glad to know
 " of you if he be like me in shape or
 " feature." — " Very much," replied
 the other. " Whence I easily concluded
 " that adventure, of mine, when I was
 " overtaken at the road's side by the
 " hunters, would need no comment.
 " The poor lady I heard was since dead,
 " and her father had withdrawn him-
 " self to his friends in Holland (for he
 " was of a Dutch family) to prevent any
 " mischievous consequences that might
 " arise from his rencounter with Sir
 " Francis, making over his estate to his
 " son, and now his only surviving child.
 " So much unhappiness was this ill man
 " the cause of to himself and others."

WHEN I reviewed my past life, I was
 as one who had escaped the perils

of a stormy sea. — I looked back with pleasure on the toils and dangers past, and carried my views forward with satisfaction to the pleasing prospect of future peace, happiness, and tranquility.

If my bosom was agitated, it was only with tumultuous joy, and even this I had learned to keep within bounds, as knowing that such transports, when carried to an excess, are not only unworthy of a man but absolutely hurtful to his frame and constitution. — Hence it is that we have had instances of people to whom good news has proved fatal, and accelerated their death, working thus effects as dreadful as the most horrid dangers could have caused; so nice is the machine of man, and so easily put out of order and destroyed.

AND

AND perhaps such examples as these are useful in teaching us to moderate our passions, and to keep them within the bounds of reason;—this indeed is a duty which we owe to heaven, to our neighbours, and ourselves; and in which we never can be remiss, without committing such a crime, as in its nature generally carries its punishment along with it.

BESIDES all this, the moderate person is always sure most solidly to enjoy the pleasures of life, because he has more leisure to examine them; and that man cannot properly be said to be rationally happy who cannot give a reason for his felicity.

FOR my own part, the sight and due sense I had of my errors constituted a

great portion of the pleasure I enjoyed, as I began to deem wisdom an essential requisite to true happiness. And next to this, a feeling heart, capable of receiving the most tender impressions, arising from love and friendship, and a proper relish for the joys of society. For as, on the one hand, it is true that the compassionate person is often troubled for other peoples misfortunes, so it is no less certain than other, that he rejoices in the joy of his friends, and increases his pleasures by the consideration of those which others are in possession of.

Of these things being by this time so perfectly sensible, I endeavoured to improve my knowledge of them to my own good:—I plainly perceived that I should now have scarcely any wishes
that

that might not be gratified; but I was resolved they should rather wait my call, then anticipate my desires; because I knew that, in the former case, the enjoyment would be greater than it could possibly be in the latter.

The unexpected manner in which I met with my father, which prevented me from seeking my fortunes on a foreign shore, and finding myself suddenly raised, to the height of my most sanguine hopes at home, I attributed to the gracious Providence of Heaven, and I gratefully acknowledged those blessings which were thus conferred on me, bending with grateful adoration to the Power that granted them.

Above all things I was assured that the chief thing requisite to my being
happy

happy, was to esteem myself so. And to this purpose, I was persuaded that an evenness of temper was necessary, and desires confined within certain liminary bounds, beyond which every indulgence must contribute to destroy that tranquility which is certainly the most desirable thing in life, and without which all other happiness is but a fleeting phantom perpetually pursued but never really enjoyed.

I MUST confess I thought the time moved too slowly till the day approached when I was to be made happy in the possession of so excellent a consort. Yet this very anxiety was far from painful, as the intermediate days were spent in the company of my beloved one, and of my father and friends, and sweetened by

by the certainty of obtaining the blessing which I so ardently sighed for.

BUT now I found every hour bring me some new satisfaction, every minute, as it were, return to me some pleasure lost.

THUS, within one short month, was I exalted from the depth of wretchedness to the very height of human felicity. We waited now only for the necessary preparations, in order to the celebration of our nuptials, those of Mr. Harwood's son being immediately dispatched.

My father determined that we should make a public and splendid appearance: this indeed was a circumstance that both Leonora and myself could have been
well

well contented to have dispensed with; but we were not disposed to contradict him in this matter.

MR. Wilford, in the mean time, had not forgotten to congratulate me on this amazing turn of fortune. He presented my apologies to the Earl of P——, and at my request recommended Humphreys to fill my place, and he waited only to see the ceremony over before his embarkation.

AT last the long-expected day arrived which was to complete my felicity here on earth. The good Mr. Ancram performed the office of a father, and gave to my arms the loveliest of her sex, all gentle, soft, and decked with blushing beauty. — My own parent, Mr.
Wilford,

Wilford, the young Mr. Ancram and his sister, were all at the wedding.

A genial banquet succeeded to the ceremony, at which none but friends were present. My dear one outshone by far the whole assembly, and I was supremely happy in the contemplation of her perfections.

At night I received her to my arms, the choicest gift that heaven could bestow.—I was beloved, and I was happy.—The morning arose to me with joy, and every hour teemed with fresh delight.

MR. James Harwood and his bride were retired into the country before the celebration of our nuptials: they lived
not

not long happy together: soon they grew tired of each other, and as soon they parted. Miss Ancram, in time consented to espouse the person whom her father had pitched upon for her, who made her an excellent husband, and won those affections after marriage which he had not been able to conciliate before.

DURING this interval we had not been able to hear any thing of my cousin; but at last we received intelligence that he had grown a mere misanthrope, his wife being dead, he had withdrawn himself to the south of France, where, dying without heirs, the French Monarch had seized upon his fortunes.

My parent, ever fond of a rural life, has retired to the same spot where first he drew
his

his breath, determining there to spend the remainder of his days, in peace and tranquillity. He will not suffer us his children to quit the pleasures of London and reside there with him; but frequently we visit him in the summer season, and enjoy all the satisfaction we can wish for in his society: yet still he neither affects the show of wealth nor grandeur, but being a lover of old English hospitality is then best pleased when he is complimented with the title of the FARMER OF KENT, and is determined to retain that name till his death.

As for me, I live as happy as love, health, and affluence can be supposed to make me in this sublunary state: if I have an additional joy, it is in relieving the indigent; if I can know an increase of pleasure, it is in the consideration that
my

my dear friends, and dearer wife, participate of it with me.

THUS have I brought my story to a conclusion, and finished a task which has cost me many a sigh; yet as nothing is more useful than a due reflexion on past events, it is possible my labour in this case may not have been bestowed in vain. If the reader be furnished with any necessary hints from it for his conduct in life I shall not scruple to pronounce it useful; a circumstance which give the highest satisfaction to the FARMER'S SON.

4 DE 58

F I N I S.

